

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

Regular Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
December 30, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
December 30, 2024

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.

Mayor Kim made the following statement regarding the Jeju airplane crash that took place the day prior to the meeting. Mayor Kim stated "Today, we come together in a moment of sorrow and reflection. On December 29th, a tragic airplane crash involving a Korean Jeju airplane claimed the lives of 179 passengers, including the cherished members of our extended community. The loss is not just a statistic; it is a devastating blow to families and friends abroad, and the neighbors who are now grappling with the sudden and unexpected tragedy, especially during what should be a joyful peak travel season. This event has sent shockwaves through our close-knit community and is a stark reminder of the fragility of life. The governing body and all residents of Palisades Park stand united in grief and support. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones. We share in your pain and sorrow and offer our deepest condolences. In the face of this horrendous loss, we also reaffirm our commitment to one another. We pledge our prayers and support to console those who are mourning. May our unity and compassion bring some solace to those affected by this heart-wrenching event. Let us remember the lives lost and honor their memory with a moment of silence after we pledge allegiance. Together, as a community, we will find strength in our shared humanity and resilience. Thank you."

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	November 15, 2024
Executive Session of the Mayor and Council:	November 15, 2024
Work Session of the Mayor and Council:	November 18, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	November 25, 2024

Mayor Kim asked if any councilmembers had any questions, none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the meeting minutes. Councilman Kim 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

2nd READING/PUBLIC HEARING:

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ORDINANCE 2024-18 Creating Ordinance Chapter 169, Entitled “Lead- Based Paint Inspection.” -New Ordinance

Mayor Kim asked if any councilmembers had any questions, none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion but Scott Krumholz reminded him he needed to open to the public first. Mayor Kim requested a motion to open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-18. 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
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2024-18:

Mayor Kim invited members of the public up to speak about Ordinance 2024-18, but none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

OFF CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2024-294	Approving Settlement with Builder Remedy Developers – Approved / Carried at Work Session
RESOLUTION 2024-295	Authorization of Appropriation Transfers
RESOLUTION 2024-298	Authorization of Suspend Meter Parking Regulations from Friday, December 20, 2024 thru Thursday, January 2, 2025 – Approved/Carried at Work Session

Mayor Kim asked if anyone had any questions regarding resolution 2024-295. Councilman Min stated he had a question regarding Resolution 2024-323. Mayor Kim stated they were on Resolution 2024-295. Councilman Min acknowledged this but stated both resolutions went together. Councilman Min stated he could wait until they were on resolution 2024-323. Mayor Kim responded it was fine, and he could ask his question then. Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated he in fact had to wait until they were on that resolution. Councilman Min stated he would wait. Mayor Kim asked if any councilmembers had any questions, none arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass resolution 2024-295. 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
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-323 Authorization of Appropriation Transfers for Swimming Pool

Mayor Kim stated before they moved to the consent agenda, he wanted to recommend to the council that consent agenda resolution 2024-323 be moved to the off-consent agenda also requested by the chief financial officer. Mayor Kim requested a motion to transfer Resolution 2024-323 to the off-consent agenda. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Min stated the details in the packet it stated they were transferring certain funds from salaries and wages from the swimming pool to other expenses. Councilman Min stated they were at the end of the year which meant there was left over money from the salaries. If he could recall correctly, the borough had the same employee numbers as the previous years. Councilman Min asked for an idea on where the salary excess was coming from considering \$85,000 was a

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lot of money. Deputy Chief Financial Officer Maria Elefteriou explained that the salary and wage wasn't spent in the pool, and the O/E utility bill had come in that week for \$9,000 therefore that sub account was going to be short. Maria Elefteriou stated if the governing body did not pass the resolution, then it would have to be budgeted in the following years budget. Maria Elefteriou stated it was separate from the current fund because utilities was separate. Since they were asking about budget wise, the borough had left over money in salaries and wages for the pool and whether that was due to a lack of lifeguards she did not know. Councilman Min stated the \$85,000 amount was from a specific funded item which was salaries and wages therefore \$85,000 had not been spent. Maria Elefteriou agreed. Councilman Min stated since it was the end of the year, that salary was still left over meaning it was unpaid from somewhere. Councilman Min stated if he remembered correctly, \$85,000 was the amount for two brand new employee salaries. Councilman Min asked from 2023 there hasn't been a change in the number of employees so that money had not been spent. Maria Elefteriou responded if he was talking about prior years, she wasn't sure if there was money left over and she would have to look it up. The only reason they were doing a transfer that year was because the O/E had a shortage, it was a possibility that there was an overage the year prior. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min wanted Maria Elefteriou to get that information for him. Councilman Min stated he did. Maria Elefteriou asked if they wanted her to get it then, and Councilman Min responded yes because they had to vote on it. Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated they could get the answers but if they needed it to be passed that night to close out the year and CFO Roy Riggitano had put the transfers in then she believed it could mess up the following's year's budget. Roberta Stern stated if Roy Riggitano had put these transfers in and recommended it then he had a reason and they could figure out later on why there was a discrepancy. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz thanked Roberta Stern for her response. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass resolution 2024-323. 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
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

RESOLUTION 2024-298 Authorization of Suspend Meter Parking Regulations from Friday, December 20, 2024 thru Thursday, January 2,2025 – Approved/Carried at Work Session

CONSENT AGENDA

- RESOLUTION 2024-296 Claims
- RESOLUTION 2024-297 Authorization of Reorganization Meeting
- RESOLUTION 2024-299 Authorization of Medicare Part B Coverage Reimbursement
- RESOLUTION 2024-300 Authorization of Change Order #1 to HM Company (Re: Palisades Park Borough Hal Egress Stair)
- RESOLUTION 2024-301 Authorization of Change Order #2 to HM Company (Re: Palisades Park Borough Hal Egress Stair)
- RESOLUTION 2024-302 Authorization of Change Order #3 to HM Company (Re: Palisades Park Borough Hal Egress Stair)
- RESOLUTION 2024-303 Authorization of Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Palisades Park and the Palisades Park Free Public Library
- RESOLUTION 2024-304 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: T. Park)
- RESOLUTION 2024-305 Authorizing of Borough Clerk to Advertise for Position of Clerk Secretary
- RESOLUTION 2024-306 Approving the Settlement with Rotimi Owoh, Esq
- RESOLUTION 2024-307 Hiring a Part Time Traffic Enforcement Officer (Re: J. Park)
- RESOLUTION 2024-308 Hiring a Part Time Traffic Enforcement Officer (Re: S. Kim)
- RESOLUTION 2024-309 Hiring a Part Time Traffic Enforcement Officer (Re: A. Gonzalez)
- RESOLUTION 2024-310 Hiring a Part -Time Special Officer (Re: S. Castano))
- RESOLUTION 2024-311 Hiring a Part- Time Special Officer (Re: S. Kim)
- RESOLUTION 2024-312 Hiring a Part- Time Special Officer (Re: J. Yi)
- RESOLUTION 2024-313 Cancellation of Stale Checks

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RESOLUTION 2024-314	Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate (Re:519 4 th Street)
RESOLUTION 2024-315	Authorization to Enter Into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Bergen for Information Technology Services
RESOLUTION 2024-316	Authorization to Enter Into a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Bergen for Internet Service
RESOLUTION 2024-317	Authorization of Increase Contract Amount for Borough of Palisades Park Tax Appeal Attorney (Re: Jalloh & Jalloh, LLC)
RESOLUTION 2024-318	Authorization of Increase Contract Amount for Empire Environmental LTD (Re:1: Bellview Place)
RESOLUTION 2024-319	Acceptance of Retirement (Re: Sergeant Rory Tennant)
RESOLUTION 2024-320	Authorization of Discontinuing Probationary Period for Police Officer (Re: S. Lee)
RESOLUTION 2024-321	Authorization of Discontinuing Probationary Period for Police Officer (Re: J. Mancilla)
RESOLUTION 2024-322	Awarding Professional Services Contract with Special Counsel for litigation
RESOLUTION 2024-324	Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: G. Beck)
RESOLUTION 2024-325	Approval Settlement of Litigation (Re: C. Beck)
RESOLUTION 2024-326	Authorization of Promotion of Police Captain (Re: G. Beck)
RESOLUTION 2024-327	Authorization of Promotion of Police Lieutenant (Re: C. Beck)
RESOLUTION 2024-328	Authorization of Promotion of Police Sergeant (Re: C. Scilingo)
RESOLUTION 2024-329	Authorization of Promotion of Police Sergeant (Re: F. DeCicco)
RESOLUTION 2024-330	Authorization of Promotion of Police Sergeant (Re: M. Lee)
RESOLUTION 2024-331	Authorization of Promotion of Police Sergeant (Re: T. Christolias)

DISCUSSION: CONSENT AGENDA 2024-296 THROUGH 2024-331.

Mayor Kim stated there were a lot of resolutions, and urged councilmembers to take their time reviewing. Mayor Kim asked if anyone had any questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if it was possible to get an explanation on the resolution. Mayor Kim stated he would allow Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz to answer the question. Scott Krumholz asked what the specific question was. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this was regarding OPRA, and questioned if the borough lacked in responding to the emails of the complainant. Scott Krumholz stated four to five years ago, she was correct. Scott Krumholz explained in 2021 there was an OPRA request made and not all the documents were provided. The OPRA requestor filed a complaint with the GRC and this was the settlement received after providing documentation. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this was three years ago. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated it was longer than three years. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked if this was concerning the previous borough clerk. Mayor Kim stated it did concern the previous borough clerk, but the borough was now responsible for paying for the bill. Councilman Min asked if he could ask a question. Scott Krumholz stated he could, he just couldn't mention anything in the email. Councilman Min asked if the borough had to settle with the company because the borough didn't provide the proper documents. Scott Krumholz responded the borough provided the documents after the fact, so there was no open issue with the GRC only payments on legal fees. There were four years of legal fees that the borough had resolved with that amount. Mayor Kim stated he thought it was a good settlement for the error of the former borough clerk. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if the borough was paying for the money for the legal fees because they didn't respond in time. Scott Krumholz stated she was correct, but four years ago. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yon stated they had multiple items related to legal work for tax appeals. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked for an explanation, and asked if the amount provided was for all the work done in 2024. Mayor Kim stated there were many tax appeal cases that needed to be resolved from a long time prior. For whatever reason, this wasn't caught by the auditor at the end of the year, and no one mentioned it until it was caught therefore there were a lot of things that needed to be addressed. Councilwoman Won-Yoon commented this was another mess the borough was cleaning up that was made before. Mayor Kim responded she was correct and he

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couldn't believe they passed the audit. Mayor Kim asked for any other questions from councilmembers.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz made a comment before Mayor Kim moved on he should make sure the promotions for the police department were for permanent positions. Mayor Kim announced Resolutions 2024-325 through Resolution 2024-331 were all promotions to permanent positions and not acting positions. Councilman Min stated on a separate copy of the settlement agreement they had to change certain wording. Mayor Kim stated there was a typo error that needed to be fixed. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilman Min made a motion to pass consent agenda except for resolution 2024-323 which was pulled to the off-consent agenda. 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 (Abstaining for Resolution 2024-320, and Resolution 2024-322)
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Kim stated they would be omitting the executive session.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she didn't have a library report, but she did want to wish everyone a happy new year.

Councilman Kim had nothing to report but he wanted to wish everyone a happy new year, and remind residents to be careful in the cold.

Councilman Min had nothing to report. Councilman Min stated 2024 was a tough year, although they made it. Councilman Min wished everyone a happy new year, and happy holidays.

Councilwoman Jang stated the recreation committee did a great job with the tree lighting as national night out. Councilwoman Jang thanked all members and stated she was really luck to work with a great team throughout the year. Councilwoman Jang stated they made a great change at the pool that year, and Ms. Nascenti did a great job. Councilwoman Jang stated she really hoped the following year they had a splash pad for the kids to enjoy at the town pool. Councilwoman Jang stated they had one snow day, and acknowledged the hard work of the DPW who removed all the snow. Councilwoman Jang stated that year they were expecting more snow so she hoped the members of the DPW kept up the hard work. Councilwoman Jang stated in 2024 she was lucky to work with five different committees and was happy to be able to promote officers, and employees who worked hard. Councilwoman Jang thanked everyone, and wished them a happy new year. A round of applause was heard.

Councilwoman Lee reported from the school board, there was a reorganization meeting that was taking place that Wednesday at 3:30PM located at the early childhood center. Councilwoman Lee thanked Councilwoman Jang for all the contributions she made to the town and wished her the best.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to add that Councilwoman Jang had been very involved in the community and politics. Mayor Kim stated she served the community well for the past three years, it was a sweet but sorrow departure. Mayor Kim congratulated her on being accepted to Rutgers University and invited her back to the reorganization meeting where they would further show their appreciation. Mayor Kim stated to Councilman Mins point, the borough started off the year pretty rough but the second half of the year turned out strong. He saw subtle but positive improvements, to the general wellbeing of the governing body in regards to roles and responsibilities, and stated there was still more work to be done the following year.

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Borough Administrator Roberta Stern didn't have anything to report but wanted to thank everyone on the mayor and council for making her first month and a half at the borough very welcoming, and she looked forward to a very productive 2025. Roberta Stern wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Mayor Kim asked the officer in charge if they had a report to give. Police Director Michael Gardner thanked Councilwoman Jang for her assistance in the police committee. On behalf of the police department, he wanted to thank the council for approving the promotions and believed this would help move the department forward. Michael Gardner reported for November there were 1,223 tickets were issued, 296 were non parking and 927 were parking tickets. Michael Gardner reported the police department got involved yearly in drive sober or get pulled over program which was a 7,000 grant therefore no money was used from the borough budget. There were 8 officers that participated who conducted 112 motor vehicle stops, they issued 184 summonses, and 68 warnings. Michael Gardner commended the officers on a job well done. Mayor Kim stated he would have to speak with the director regarding a day they can do a ceremony where they can promote all the police officers. Councilman Min stated they had already spoken of a date and asked if that upcoming Saturday at 3PM would be good for everyone. Michael Gardner responded all the officers that were promoted were available to be there on Saturday at 3PM. The families of all the officers can also attend and participate for pictures and celebration. Councilman Min stated as long as all the councilmembers are available that day it worked. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min would prepare a statement of why the officers were being promoted and councilmembers would give a speech. Captain Rotundo wished everyone a happy holidays and thanked Councilwoman Jang for her work. Captain Rotundo also thanked councilmembers for the promotions of the officers as well as the special and traffic enforcement officers. Captain Rotundo stated that he believed this would help move the police department in the right direction. Captain Rotundo stated the police department had finished part two of the active shooter training which was an eight-hour course split into two different sessions. Captain Rotundo stated the two new officers hired were put into squads and were continuing their FTO program. Officer Juliano was almost done with police academy and was in training in the borough. Captain Rotundo stated that his graduation was January 8th, 2024 and extended the invitation. Captain Rotundo stated they had a crossing guard that retired that month, and they had a replacement already hired. This new hire was supposed to be an alternate but could fill the position of the retiree. Year to date the police department had responded to 22,709 calls approximately 63 calls a day. There were 228 total arrests, which was a 30% increase from the year prior which could be from the quality-of-life details that officers conducted. Captain Rotundo wished everyone a happy new year. Mayor Kim asked when Captain Rotundo stated the amount of traffic stops, violations and tickets that were distributed, if there was a percentage increase from the year before. Captain Rotundo replied there was an increase in calls between four to five thousand, which could go up and down each year depending on storms, and other things that could have an effect on the community. Captain Rotundo stated he could provide a more in-depth report on burglaries, accidents, etc. for the next meeting. Mayor Kim asked him to do so, and then thanked the new leadership of the police department. Mayor Kim stated that he foresaw positive change and direction for the police department and appreciated the proactiveness. Mayor Kim stated that Councilman Min agreed as well especially when they were trying to get the police department accredited which could create a lot of benefits.

Mayor Kim stated last but not least he wanted to swear in the part time special police officers Mr. Castano, Mr. Kim, and Mr. Yi. Sophia Jang stated that Mr. Castano could not make it for the swearing in that night. Mayor Kim asked both men to repeat after him, "I, due 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, under the authority of the people, and that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of the office of special police officer." Mr. Kim was first sworn in, followed by Mr. Yi. Pictures were taken with the governing body and the new special police officers. Mayor Kim congratulated both new special police officers.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion to close and open to the public. Before a second was made, Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz emphasized that from that moment forward, which would be emphasized again at the

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reorganization meeting in January, the public participation section of the mayor and council meetings would take comments only. The council would not answer any questions, only the mayor and himself if authorized by the chair.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Christopher Kwak stated he wanted to take time to reflect as the council had done and what they had been able to achieve in 2024 under the leadership of Mayor Paul Kim. Christopher Kwak stated that under the current leadership they had been able to do something that Palisades Park hasn't been able to do in a long time. They had been able to see how the events in the community have caused the community to grow together something he hadn't seen in a long time.

Christopher Kwak stated from oppositions to agreements whatever the case may have been, everything had been done with two questions in mind, is it good for the town, and is it good for the people which was something he hadn't seen in a long time. Christopher Kwak from the bottom of his heart thanked the mayor and council for all their hard work, and for his teachings, hope, and inspiration from everyone there including residents who spoke of the things they believed about. Christopher Kwak thanked everyone again and spoke of his high hopes for the following year. Christopher Kwak stated he wanted to see happy residents living a good life, and believe they have the right place to live their lives and raise their families. Christopher Kwak thanked the mayor and council, borough clerk Sophia Jang, and borough administrator Roberta Stern. Christopher Kwak asked to keep the same momentum as 2024 and he believed through the community they could do anything. Mayor Kim thanked Christopher Kwak and joked that he went over his time by ten seconds.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session and return to the regular meeting. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Borough Clerk