

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

Regular Session  
of the Mayor & Council  
October 27, 2025

**MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00PM**

**STATEMENT:**

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

1. Notice was filed January 9, 2025 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://palisadesparknj.org/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE BROUGHT BY COUNCILWOMAN WON-YOON.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Shin	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

Mayor Kim stated before the governing body went over the adoption of minutes, he wanted to recognize an important presence, New Jersey State Senator Gordon Johnson. Mayor Kim asked Gordon Johnson to stand and be recognized. A round of applause was heard all around. Mayor Kim stated he believed Senator Johnson had come to the borough to present good news.

Senator Johnson agreed he did.

Mayor Kim stated this had been a request of the Palisades Park Borough for over thirty years.

Senator Johnson thanked Mayor Kim and jokingly stated he was being put on the spot. Senator Johnson thanked the mayor, council, and residents of Palisades Park. Senator Johnson stated he was present to talk about issues with crosswalks throughout Palisades Park that had arose for the last thirty years. Senator Johnson stated he had received a call from the Borough Administrator Roberta Stern, and because of this call his office had been going back and forth with the Department of Transportation via email. Senator Johnson continued that he had received an email that day from the DOT reading, "We issued the following intersections of Palisades Park, Bergen County: Route 93 & Grand Avenue & Edsall Boulevard, Route 93 & Brinkerhoff Avenue, Route 93 & Henry Avenue, Route 93 & Palisades Boulevard. Senator Johnson stated that he was advised the engineer had to comply with the ADA. Senator Johnson stated that he thought a crosswalk was just two parallel lines but there was actually a lot more engineering involved. Senator Gordon stated that the DOT estimated these projects would be completed by the spring of 2026, and only because of the winter season starting.

Mayor Kim reiterated the New Jersey Senator Gordon Johnson with the request of the borough administrator Roberta Stern, agreed to expedite the crosswalk projects after thirty years. Mayor Kim stated after many years of previous mayors requesting the state to implement additional crosswalks on Grand Avenue to make it safer, thirty years later there requests had been approved. Mayor Kim stated they were going to get four new crosswalks that would be ADA compliant to include handicap ramps, and safety lights. Mayor Kim thanked Senator Johnson again. Senator Johnson announced to the residents of Palisades Park, that if they had any issues, complaints, or concerns to contact his office.

Senator Johnson announced to the governing body that his office consisting of Ellen Park, and Shama Heider were there to support them in any way they could.

Mayor Kim thanked Senator Johnson again.

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**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Work Session of the Mayor and Council: September 15, 2025  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council: September 29, 2025

Mayor Kim asked if council members had any concerns about the minutes before they passed. When no concerns arose, Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the adoption of the minutes. Councilman Shin made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-27 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 300 of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park Entitled “Zoning “ to Modify Article V Entitled” Signs” to Require Illumination of Residential Address Plates and Creating More Uniformity for Nonresidential Signage**

Councilwoman Won-Yon stated she had a comment. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she thought the sign was more of a personal preference to the residents. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she could understand the sign being mandatory for nonresidential properties, but for residents this should be a choice. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why the borough wanted to regulate residential signage.

Mayor Kim replied that this was for safety reasons and homes were hard to locate at nighttime. Mayor Kim stated the new duplex constructions had illuminated signage as well because of the safety concerns. Mayor Kim said illuminated signage wouldn't only be to benefit the residents, but also for Uber drivers, and any at home services being provided. Mayor Kim stated all new residential properties would be grandfathered to do this, and the illuminated signs did not mandatorily apply to old homes but to new homes.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated one of the purposes of an ordinance was to protect residents' rights rather than to regulate them.

Mayor Kim agreed they were protecting residents. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't about rights; it was about the borough's rights. Mayor Kim continued and stated the reason the borough was doing this was because by law it was their right. Mayor Kim stated it wouldn't be presented as an ordinance if the borough attorney deemed it would infringe on the rights of the residents. Mayor Kim stated it was their duty to make these kinds of decisions, and reminded Councilwoman Won-Yoon that she was able to vote no. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

Councilman Min asked if this ordinance was aimed at newer and future homes to require illuminated signage. Mayor Kim agreed it was.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated it applied to all new construction and to anyone who came to the borough seeking a CO or continued CO who would have to abide by the ordinance.

Councilman Min asked if the continued CO would be one for the residential tenants as well because they would have to obtain a CO.

Scott Krumholz stated he didn't think a new tenant would require a homeowner to get a CCO. Scott Krumholz stated he believed a CCO would have to be obtained if a new home were being constructed or if a house was being sold.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated a CCO which was a continued certificate of occupancy was when there was a change in tenants.

Mayor Kim stated CO.

Roberta Stern replied no and said that a CO was for new construction and as far as she knew the tenant didn't own the property and the CO would have to be obtained by new owners.

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Mayor Kim stated he agreed.

Roberta Stern stated that if there was a new owner, they didn't do any work, but they still got the continued certificate of occupancy, they would do it but not the tenant.

Councilman Min asked if this was for the future building or if the landlord wanted to actually do what they wanted to do, this would be for safety purposes to brighten up the numbers to easily see, if there was any way they could add current buildings as it would take a while to get the ordinance.

Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min meant by current buildings. Councilman Min said not the newer buildings.

Mayor Kim said they were not talking about the newer buildings. Scott Krumholz said that it applied.

Mayor Kim said that the only thing was that anything under the ordinance was law but without the underline, it was already existing as the underlined was the one that had been modified.

Scott Krumholz said that if they looked at section 300-34 subparagraph L, it applied to not only certificates of occupancy but continued certificates of occupancy and also included tenant certificates. Scott Krumholz said that anytime that a homeowner came before the building department with an application for a CO or a CCO then they would be required to comply with the order so it did apply to existing buildings when they affected some type of change that would warrant the issue of a CCO or a CO.

Councilman Min said he would like to see all houses light up on their numbers in a very short time.

Scott Krumholz said it was the best they could do as it would be very difficult to require all current homeowners to come in, apply and do it within a certain amount of time. Scott Krumholz said he did not think it was realistic or believe that it would be appropriate.

Roberta Stern said they considered the practicality of that, but it did not really make sense.

Scott Krumholz said it was more of a phased in approach but ultimately all buildings at some point would be done. Scott Krumholz said it would be new tenant, new construction for a permit for a CO or CCO, or sale of a house.

Mayor Kim said he thought that it was for rebuilding, demolition of new homes, and houses that required a CO because of a construction but CCO as in any new tenants would be two to four years gap before they were going to say they had to put in lighted numbers.

Scott Krumholz said that it would be one of the requirements if they were coming in for a CCO, one of the requirements would be that they would have to have an address plat that lighted up.

Mayor Kim said CCO for rentals. Mayor Kim said that was a big difference.

Roberta Stern said the way she read it was that it was not for a CCO for tenant change.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other things the council members wanted to address before they put them in the back burner.

Councilwoman Lee asked Mayor Kim to repeat what he said.

Mayor Kim said the conversation led to the fact that they needed clarifications of what the CCO and a CO did. Mayor Kim said he would rather get it done while they had a change instead of working on their problems on the regular session as it should be done after the work session, but they were stuck there again at the regular session debating on something that should have been yes or no. Mayor Kim asked them if they had any more concerns before they struck it out.

Scott Krumholz said he could, but his suggestion would be to get an appeal for the council whether they would want it to apply to CCOs or if they would want an exception where it did not apply to new tenants.

Mayor Kim said that instead of talking to the building department, they could decide on their own.

Scott Krumholz said that if it needed to be remodified, it could be modified at the reintroduction next month.

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Mayor Kim asked if they could change it right there. Scott Krumholz said no.

Mayor Kim said it would have to be modified right then and there, and it seemed like whether it was a CCO or a CO they would have to get lights.

Scott Krumholz said it was the first reading and that they could, but the question was that before they made any changes to it if the council wanted to change it from CO and have a limited.

Mayor Kim said they wanted the opinion of the council members before they moved forward even though they were going to strike it out.

Scott Krumholz said they might not need to strike it out.

Mayor Kim told the council members that he wanted to take it out because his intentions were for houses that needed CO for construction of a new home but never thought a CCO would be involved here as CCOs were rentals. Mayor Kim said there were a lot of rental turnarounds so it might have been a burden for the residents.

Councilman Kim said it would be.

Mayor Kim said he agreed with Councilman Kim and asked if anyone else agreed with them that it should only be CO and not CCO.

Councilman Shin said that CCO was for tenant changes and that in the work session he asked if it was for new construction only. Mayor Kim said yes.

Councilman Shin said that CCO was not for new construction and even for existing houses when they changed tenants. Councilman Shin added that it stated on January 1st of next year, no CCO would be issued without putting the lights.

Mayor Kim said that he agreed with Councilman Kim, Councilman Shin and Councilwoman Lee.

Councilman Vietri asked if they could get an opinion from building. Mayor Kim said that was fine. Mayor Kim said they were not doing a vote and were just asking for an opinion.

Councilman Vietri stated that was why he asked. Mayor Kim said it was not going through this month and thought it was a good idea. Mayor Kim asked how Councilman Vietri felt about that and that 3 council members thought it was a good idea but they should only implement it for COs and not CCOs.

Councilman Vietri said he would just like to speak to the building department.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon how she felt. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that it was all safety and stated that unless the entire town had a same way to implement the address, that was not going to be happening.

Mayor Kim said it would slowly but surely happen. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min how he felt.

Councilman Min said they should post pone it for now. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min agreed that they would rather not do CCO but only CO's.

Councilman Min said the purpose of the ordinance was for safety so he would like to get it done as soon as possible for everybody, for every residential building because that was going to cover the liability of them trying to deliver stuff or whatever in the night. Councilman Min said if he could include the tenant portion as well, that was why he asked if they could actually put any warnings saying that the current, not new buildings but old buildings, could be added to eliminate.

Mayor Kim said that would be the CO as COs were renovations. Mayor Kim said anything beyond breaking shelves or attachments or fixtures, if they did plumbing it would be a CO so that would be when they would have to fix the lights.

Councilman Min said if it was only for renovations, new buildings, or COs it was going to take a while to illuminate the buildings in Palisades Park.

Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min liked CCO. Councilman Min said he liked CCOs.

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Mayor Kim said that now everybody knew what the situation was and asked to bring it to the next month. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to verify with the building department to define what they meant and that they were considering and needed a recommendation from Tom O'Malley as they needed to understand what CO and CCO was at the end. Mayor Kim said they were going to strike out the ordinance from the introduction and asked if that was okay. Mayor Kim said they had no more introduction of ordinances for November.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-26                      Establishing of the Affordable Housing District 1 (AHD-1) and  
Regulating Development Requirements for Block 617, Lots 21, 22 &  
23**

Scott Krumholz said it was the amendment to the ordinance that was passed by the council late last year as a result of one of the settlement agreements with one of the property owners as part of the owners plan required a 3.67-foot setback from the front yard. Scott Krumholz said that the ordinance was drawn up by their planner and no one noticed that the minimum front yard set back in the prior ordinance was 10 feet and not 3.67 feet. Scott Krumholz said this ordinance was to comply with their obligations under the settlement agreement and since this was what they originally intended and was the plan, they were modifying the ordinance from 10 feet to 3.67 feet. Scott Krumholz said he believed the developer just for notation was before the planning board.

Mayor Kim said it already passed but the developer cooperated. Scott Krumholz asked if a decision had been rendered. Mayor Kim said it had passed.

Scott Krumholz said they could pass it either way but the developer went forward with the variance so they would not even need it.

Mayor Kim said it was okay and that the planning board made some poles because 3.67 was too close to the sidewalk and it was very close to the entry of the garage door, so the developers complied.

Scott Krumholz said it may be moved but he would still ask the council to consider just for housekeeping, so it did not look like there was anything they were not carrying out their responsibilities under the settlement agreement.

Councilwoman Lee asked if it was consistent with what was passed at the planning board.

Scott Krumholz said yes as 3.67 was the application that the developers came with and because it was a smaller setback than the 10 foot which they normally required, the planning board had the developers put bollards in front of the property.

Mayor Kim said it was visible lights that told them that the car was coming out of the garage. Mayor Kim said they also requested trees and flood lights with trees next to the sidewalk so if the car went by it was still protected with the trees, so the developers decided to put four or five trees in. Mayor Kim said they were cooperative as the town did what they could. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim asked to close the regular session and open to the public.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-26:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they have three minutes to talk about ordinance 2025-26.

Ernst Beerle said he attended a few meetings pertaining to the subject and it used to be 6 or 7 floors and 70 units and it got knocked down. Ernst Beerle asked why all of a sudden it was an okay thing again. Ernst Beerle said he attended the other meetings and was confused that all the people came to say it was no good and it was knocked down.

Scott Krumholz said there were two lawsuits as this landowner bought two separates. Scott Krumholz said that the landowner joined the builders remedy case which was why they were building what they were building as they went through that avenue and were able to obtain the relief they got from court, and it was subject to some negotiations, but the borough had very little leverage in those negotiations. Scott Krumholz added that the landowners filed another lawsuit against the zoning board to try to overturn but that was withdrawn once they got what they wanted with builders remedy.

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Ernst Beerle said he did understand that they needed affordable housing but still did not like the idea because of the neighbors and it was terrible.

Mayor Kim said that their hands were tied and the landowners used the law against them. Mayor Kim said that they started with 70 something units but ended up with 40 something units.

Scott Krumholz said they cut it down.

Mayor Kim said it would not happen again on the fourth round as they were trying to prevent the future and fix the past. Mayor Kim asked if there was anybody else. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and return to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-26.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Shin seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	No
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	No

Sophia Jang stated that it was three to three, so the mayor had to tie break.

Mayor Kim asked who said no.

Sophia Jang stated that it was Councilman Min, Councilman Vietri, and Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to explain to the people and to the council members why it was dangerous to say no to judge deemed mandates from the court.

Scott Krumholz said this instance was a tad bit difference from some of the other builders remedy actions that the council had taken simply because the planning board application by the builders remedy plaintiff had already concluded, and they received the approvals from the board, so it was somewhat of a move ordinance but the bottom line was that everything the board did with regard to affordable housing was now being viewed under a microscope by a judge that was not very friendly with the borough from past inactions. Scott Krumholz said that voting the ordinance down or not approving the ordinance even though it was ministerial in nature, could send reverberations through the builders remedy that could potentially impact if nothing else the judges opinion moving forward for anything that may come up in that lawsuit. Scott Krumholz said it was somewhat risky to the residents of the borough to not be strictly compliant with the settlement agreement and court orders.

Mayor Kim said if it did not pass, he assumed that council members could be subpoenaed under court as well.

Scott Krumholz said that the judge could order them in which would be more forceful than a subpoena.

Mayor Kim said it was because they were not following the law or the settlement they were trying to create and finalize so future builders remedies would not happen. Mayor Kim said it was so the borough could get its rights back and their ability to decide for the fourth round how they were going to make sure that overdevelopment would not happen.

Scott Krumholz said the judge would see based upon the record who either abstained or voted against any particular resolution or ordinance related to the builders remedy and the judge had the ability to call that person or people or the entire council into their chambers or courtroom to question as to the reasons for doing x, y, and z. Scott Krumholz said the judge had that authority but had no idea if they would do that.

Mayor Kim asked what would happen if it did not pass.

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Scott Krumholz said that the application before the Planning Board by DRC had already been approved.

Mayor Kim said it was approved but the thing was it was approved because knowingly that they were about to pass the ordinance.

Scott Krumholz said they were seeking a variance, and he did not know what was approved and how as he thought they went for a variance.

Mayor Kim said they went through a variance and got it approved because the planning board knew the council still hadn't passed the ordinance.

Scott Krumholz said it was still within the 45-day appeal period so if it were to be appealed and objected to by some 3rd party and potentially overturned, without the ordinance they would have to go back to the drawing board and pass the ordinance in the future. Scott Krumholz said it seemed like a waste of time but they would have to do that if in fact the decision of the board was somehow overturned in the courts. Scott Krumholz said that for right now because it was approved, it still had not become final because it had not passed the 45-day appeal period but they got the variance. Scott Krumholz said that the ordinance was so they could go as of right before the board without needing a variance but they asked for a variance, got the variance, had the 3.67 setback so the ordinance was not critical but more administrative. Scott Krumholz said that if it did not pass, it did not really affect much if anything in terms of DRC's plans with that problem.

Mayor Kim said he did not understand why the council members were reluctantly saying no to court mandates and putting in a pickle. Mayor Kim said he did not understand why they would want to logically try to put us in harm's way. Mayor Kim asked if it was political and said he did not know. Mayor Kim said it did not make sense because they had no choice but to say yes to the settlements. Mayor Kim said that it came to him and asked why they had to vote on it. Mayor Kim asked if it was better to abstain or recuse.

Scott Krumholz said the mayor would have to have a reason for recusing.

Mayor Kim said he would abstain. Scott Krumholz said it would not pass because it was three to three.

Mayor Kim said it was just a moving.

Scott Krumholz said it was for the purposes of DRC's present application, but it would be moved if no one appealed the decision as the decision became final in 40 days.

Roberta Stern asked if the DRC could make changes to their plan and get more out of the plan because it was not approved. Roberta Stern asked if DRC could change their plans within that 45-day period.

Scott Krumholz said no because they would have to go back through the planning board to make changes and it would have to be something that was part of the agreed plan. Scott Krumholz said that it was an administrative thing and was to just show the court that they were doing what they said they were going to do in the settlement agreement. Scott Krumholz said that the bottom line was that at the present time, the appeal period had not run meaning that someone could appeal the decision and they could be back to the Planning Board but for right now they were approved and no one had appealed so right now it was moved.

Mayor Kim said he did not understand why three council members were saying no to it and would try to put the governing body and the community in harm. Mayor Kim said he hoped everyone understood what they were trying to do. Mayor Kim said that just because he was doing a split vote did not mean he liked developments, but he knew the facts. Mayor Kim said the three people were not acting towards logic and it had to be something else, and he did not approve what they were doing. Mayor Kim said he would have to say yes because it was the right thing to do so he said yes. Mayor Kim said he was very disappointed.

Sophia Jang announced that Ordinance 2025-26 was approved for final adoption by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2025. Sophia Jang stated that 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. Mayor Kim said it was very dangerous what the three council members were doing.

A public member asked what the outcome was. Mayor Kim asked them not to speak out like that as they would get their time to talk.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 2025-294**      **Approval to submit an award extension request for MA-2024-00308 to the New Jersey Department Of Transportation. - FY 24 Broad Avenue Streetscape – PASSED AT THE WORK SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 2025-295**      **Amending Resolution 2025-289 (processing fees) to include additional vendor and authorized Employees for accounts – PASSED AT THE WORK SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 2025-332**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Municipal Administrator**

**RESOLUTION 2025-333**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Police Director**

Mayor Kim said that there was an impromptu resolution for a consent agenda but had to be moved to off consent agenda for Resolution 2025-332 and 2025-333. Mayor Kim said that they would get back to those two.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked to make a motion. Mayor Kim said she could not because they were not even there yet.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked to make a motion for Resolution 2025-299 to move it to off consent.

Mayor Kim said it was already off consent. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was not.

Mayor Kim said they were not in the consent agenda and told Councilwoman Won-Yoon to not go out of order. Mayor Kim said Councilwoman Won-Yoon would have her turn in consent agenda. Mayor Kim said she would have a right to do a motion, but they were in off consent.

**RESOLUTION 2025-332**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Municipal Administrator**

Mayor Kim said it came together with Resolution 2025-333 and added that 2025-292 and 2025-295 passed in the work session as they had to be passed to get the extensions awarded and to authorize the accounts so they could pay the people to start the kiosk parking meters which the people were waiting for. Mayor Kim said 2025-332 and 2025-333 were coming together because over the weekend, Councilwoman Won-Yoon requested that she wanted to create an off-consent agenda authorizing the clerk to advertise for municipal administrator and authorizing the clerk to advertise for the police director. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to explain to the rest of the governing body why she decided to do it.

Councilman Min started to speak but Mayor Kim said that he asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that she and Councilman Min did.

Mayor Kim said they could do both.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said her understanding was that the contract of Borough Administrator was ending at the end of the year so they needed to advertise for borough administrator so they could actually go through the right process.

Mayor Kim asked if that was the right process.

Scott Krumholz said that by the business administrator, the ordinance was referred to the title as municipal administrator was governed by the New Jersey statutes and New Jersey statutes allowed the mayor to recommend and the council to appoint a business administrator for the term which was typically the term of the mayor. Scott Krumholz said that obviously the mayor and council at any point in time could, with a certain way to vote could move to dismiss the municipal administrator but pursuant to the statute if that were the case the administrator would be entitled to certain benefits such as three months of pay. Scott Krumholz said it was not typical as usual when a business administrator was brought on by mayor and council, it was for the term so if that was something Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to discuss with the council and the council wanted to do that, that was certainly the councils prerogative just not typical.

Mayor Kim asked about the police director.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was the same with the police director as the contract was ending by the end of the year. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was actually the same position as once they were approaching the end of their contract, it was common sense to advertise whether that position would be filled by the same person or not.

Councilman Min said it was going to be a simple advertisement for both position whether they renewed the contract or hired someone new so they could accept applications just to prepare for later.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth how he felt about it.

Allan Roth said that he did not like to give legal advice in an open session, but the statutes were different and they had in the ordinance, the police director had an ordinance where if the director had a term, that was the term. Allan Roth said that if there was no term in the ordinance, then they would go by the contract term. Allan Roth said they did not have to advertise as there was no statutory requirement to do so. Allan Roth said that the business administrator was a completely separate issue. Allan Roth stated that the term of the business administrator, unless set by agenda to terminate, which it could have, but that was not how the statute worked. Allan Roth said that the statute read they stayed for the term of the mayor and if it was severed prior to that, that statute would give them three months' pay. Allan Roth said he did not remember Roberta Stern's appointment was for a specific term by resolution.

Mayor Kim said he did not believe they had a specific term. Roberta Stern said it was from the date of hire in November 27, 2024 through December 31st of 2025.

Allan Roth asked if that was the contract. Mayor Kim said that was the contract.

Roberta Stern said that was said in the resolution and believed the contract said the same thing. Allan Roth said that it would then be for the term.

Mayor Kim said because Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min wanted to do it, the mayor approved it.

Mayor Kim said they would have to go through an interview process and sit down with the current police director and the bough administrator to figure what they accomplished and really evaluate the accomplishment and what they were working on. Mayor Kim said that they should have done that before they even announced they were going to consider somebody else. Mayor Kim added that they all agreed that both positions expired on December 31st. Mayor Kim said that meant no matter what, even though they did an interview process or assessment or evaluation of their work, they might have to rice them. Mayor Kim asked if they would have to R.I.C.E them.

Scott Krumholz said if it was to get into performance related issues then yes as the employees by necessity to be noticed.

Mayor Kim said that should be prudent because without that, why would they open it up. Mayor Kim added that 2 of the council members were going to expire and the next year there was going to be 2 new council members, so they were going to have do the meeting again next year as well. Mayor Kim said that was why he asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min why they decided to do this.

Councilman Min said it was just simple advertisement.

Mayor Kim said that was the reason why he put it in there but they were not evidently answering why beyond stating it was simple advertisement. Mayor Kim said it was not normal, especially when they knew that both positions were expiring at the end of the year. Mayor Kim said it was going to happen next year no matter how they sliced it. Mayor Kim added that they did not provide them with interviews and they still decided to put it in which they didn't have to.

Councilman Kim said they were going to do that.

Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min meant. Councilman Min clarified that he meant the meetings they were going to have to review.

Mayor Kim said they should have done that before because the majority of the votes were not there but next year.

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Councilwoman Lee said she would like to add one more thing and stated that as a matter of respect for the people that were working for the borough, they needed to be respectful to the people already in the positions as the positions were not vacant. To advertise for positions that were already filled by real people she would think that it was disrespectful.

Mayor Kim said that he agreed.

Councilman Kim said he agreed and said that if they terminated anybody, even before that they should always have some kind of job performance evaluation first and then if that continued and then whoever was doing the performance review informed the mayor then the mayor could inform the rest of the council and then when the mayor found out it was not proper, then it should not go on like that. Councilman Kim said that the mayor was suggesting to every council that they were going to put advertisements and then due to the reason for that, then they could do the right process of doing it. Councilman Kim said that even though it was a simple advertisement, they should do it the step by step way by having the performance review first and then based on that, if it was needed to have an advertisement, have that done. Councilman Kim said that without that evaluation, it would be very disrespectful to anybody working for the borough.

Mayor Kim said he put it in because of the request of Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon but they had the opportunity to table it as well as passing it. Mayor Kim said it was a choice of the council members. Mayor Kim asked the council members if they should read it off or if they wanted to table it until December or even January after they went through the evaluations. Mayor Kim said he planned to have an executive meeting with the two positions as well as among others so they would get an opportunity to sit down and evaluate what their progress was of the year. Mayor Kim said if they made a motion to go with it, they were going to vote on it and if they were going to make a motion to table this they were going to vote on that. Mayor Kim said he could not make a motion.

Councilman Min made a motion to move forward.

Mayor Kim asked for a second.

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

Councilman Kim	No. Councilman Kim said there was a due process and that they should do it the right way.
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No
Councilman Vietri	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Scott Krumholz stated that it failed to pass.

Mayor Kim said it had not been passed and was rejected so Resolution 2025-332 did not pass.

**RESOLUTION 2025-333      Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Police Director**

Mayor Kim said it was the same situation and said that Councilwoman Lee made a very good point that they had employees working still and Mayor Kim stated he firmly believed they did not have to do this. Mayor Kim asked if there was a motion on the table to vote on this resolution.

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

Councilman Kim	No for the same reason as Resolution 2025-332
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No for the same reason as Resolution 2025-332
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Sophia Jang stated it was three to three and Mayor Kim stated he voted no as he did not want any future litigating issues.

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Mayor Kim stated that both Resolution 2025-332 and 2025-333 were struck out from off consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>RESOLUTION 2025-296</b>	<b>Claims</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-297</b>	<b>Establishing Storm Recovery Reserve</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-298</b>	<b>Approving Memorandum of Agreement with NJHOMES</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-299</b>	<b>Authorizing Salary Increases for Municipal Employee</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-300</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025- 15 of Borough Attorney, Ruderman &amp; Roth</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-301</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-21 of Borough Planner, Kauker &amp; Kauker LLC</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-302</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-27 of Borough Special Counsel, McManimon, Scotland &amp; Bauman</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-303</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-17 of Bond Counsel, McManimon, Scotland &amp; Bauman</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-304</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-28 of Borough Tax Appeal Attorney, Jalloh &amp; Jalloh</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-305</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-23 of Alternate Municipal Prosecutor, Brian K. LaRoche</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-306</b>	<b>Authorizing Membership in the South Bergen JIF</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-307</b>	<b>Authorizing Payment for Central Blvd Improvement (Re: DLS Contracting Inc)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-308</b>	<b>Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Bergen to Provide With Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Program Conduct Activities</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-309</b>	<b>Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Bergen to Receive Grants</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-310</b>	<b>Referring a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amending to the Planning Board for Review And Report Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40:55D-26</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-311</b>	<b>Authorizing Advertise for New Pool Filtrations System</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-312</b>	<b>Rejecting Bids for the Columbus Park Dog Park and Authorizing the Borough Clerk To Re-Advertise for Bids</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-313</b>	<b>Authorizing Lease with Bergen Energy</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-314</b>	<b>Authorizing a Share Service Agreement with Bergen County for Emergency and Non-Emergency Equipment</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-315</b>	<b>Creating an Affordable Housing Committee</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-316</b>	<b>Authorizing Advertise for RFQ</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-317</b>	<b>Authorization of Refund for Duplicate Tax Payment in the Amount of \$4,278.29 (Re: 300 A 7<sup>th</sup> Street)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-318</b>	<b>Authorization of Refund for Tax Payment in the Amount of \$971.15 to S. Park (Re: 344 Northwood Way)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-319</b>	<b>Acceptance of Resignation (Re: A. Albanese) and Appointing New Library Member (Re: A. Monteleone)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-320</b>	<b>Authorizing Refund of Residential Parking Permit (Re: H. Lee)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-321</b>	<b>Authorizing Refund of Residential Parking Permit (Re: E. Ko)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-322</b>	<b>Acceptance of Resignation (Re: A. Gonzalez)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-323</b>	<b>Hiring of Full-Time Acting Code Enforcement Officer (Re: P. Kim)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-324</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 311, Lot 1)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-325</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 221, Lot 11)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-326</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 225, Lot 2 &amp; Lot 3)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-327</b>	<b>Authorization of Raffle License (Re: St. Michael Church)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-328</b>	<b>Authorization of Bingo License (Re: St. Michael Church)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-329</b>	<b>Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park / Fort Lee Elks, RL#679)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-330</b>	<b>Approving Fifth Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Fan Associates</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-331</b>	<b>Approving Fifth Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Leem's Corporation</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-299</b>	<b>Authorizing Salary Increases for Municipal Employee</b>

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she would like to make a motion for Resolution 2025-299 to move to off consent.

Mayor Kim asked for a second.

Councilman Min seconded.

Mayor Kim asked for a roll call on moving it from consent to off consent. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	No
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Sophia Jang said it was tied so the mayor would have to vote.

Mayor Kim voted no so they could keep it as consent agenda. Mayor Kim said to announce the consent agenda. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions besides 2025-299.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she had a question about 2025-299. Mayor Kim asked what the big difference was between talking about a consent agenda if they were not going to be rejected to off consent.

Scott Krumholz said people could comment on it and vote.

Allan Roth said that if a council person was going to talk about something off consent, consent agenda in and of itself were typical administrative resolutions that could be passed in one vote. Allan Roth said that if there were going to be comments on consent, it should be moved off consent which should have been done as a courtesy of what they called a friendly amendment. Allan Roth said that if Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to talk about something, it should be easily taken off and there would not need to be a second vote so they could take it off consent, talk about it, then vote on the consent agenda and then vote on that one that was removed.

Mayor Kim said it did not pass. Allan Roth asked what did not pass.

Scott Krumholz stated that there was a motion to move that resolution from consent to off consent and the council voted against it.

Mayor Kim said his problem was that consent agenda was usually not for discussion.

Allan Roth said that was the role of the council and if it was voted to stay on consent, it stayed on consent and there would be no discussion. Allan Roth stated that then Councilwoman Won-Yoon would have to vote yea or nay on that particular resolution.

Councilman Kim said that Councilwoman Won-Yoon could say yes or no with an explanation.

Mayor Kim said of course.

Allan Roth said that it meant there would be no debate on the subject.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more consent agenda that council members wanted to move to off consent agenda to discuss about it. Mayor Kim said that if there were no more questions about off consent agenda and that it was the purpose of the consent agenda.

Allan Roth said that was correct.

Mayor Kim said it was to vote yes or no and they could take out certain things such as saying yes for anything except 2025-299 as Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted.

Allan Roth said that was correct.

Mayor Kim added that Councilwoman Won-Yoon could not open it up to talk about it because it was not off consent.

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Allan Roth stated that she could comment but could not debate. Mayor Kim said that would be on the vote. Allan Roth confirmed it would be for the vote.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she could make a comment. Mayor Kim replied please.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said 2025-299 was about salary increase. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that it was about a salary increase of three employees.

Mayor Kim asked why she was commenting then. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she was trying to make her comment.

Mayor Kim said she was going to vote then make the comment and that they were currently in a stage of motions and not off consent. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions about consent agenda they wanted to move to off consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION 2025-329      Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park / Fort Lee Elks, RL#679)**

Mayor Kim said that for Resolution 2025-329, he was making a recommendation to be struck out because the authorization for raffle license for Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks Club was not completed so they should take that out. Mayor Kim said that 329 was struck out because not enough information was given. Mayor Kim said if there were no more questions about the consent agenda to be moved to off consent and debated, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass the consent agenda 2025-296 to 2025-331 excluding Resolution 2025-329 because they did not provide proper documentation.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes (Recuse 2025-331)
Councilwoman Lee	Yes (No for 2025-324, 2025-325, 2025-326)

Mayor Kim told Scott Krumholz that he was to explain to the people and to the council members the significance of approving the status versus denying it and bringing it to the court.

Scott Krumholz said they met in executive session the previous week and they heard from the attorney regarding the specifics of the three appeals represented with the settlement agreements for resolutions 2025-324, 2025-325, and 2025-326. Scott Krumholz said that what they were presented with was obviously the payment of taxes going back many years which could all be subjected to five percent interest from 2008 so if they were to proceed and not settle the case, there would be a trial and they would then be required to hire an appraiser for every single year which would be very costly. Scott Krumholz added that if at the end of the day, the assessment was changed in any way, any tax that would be due going back to 2008 would be hit with a five percent interest rate compounded over all those years. Scott Krumholz said that in essence, the decision to settle was a balance of whether the current valuation in the settlement and the difference in the amount that would be collected under that new assessment and weighed that in terms of the cost to the borough having to go through a trial. Scott Krumholz said that it was recommended for a number of reasons including the merits of the underlying lawsuit questioning the evaluation on the commercial properties. Scott Krumholz said that more specifics would require another executive session and the recommendation from the outside tax council was that these were approved.

Mayor Kim said that in a nutshell, it costed more time and money to go all the way to the end. Mayor Kim said that the council members would like to know if the evaluations were surely correct.

Scott Krumholz said that the previous executive session was not only with the tax appeal attorney but also the tax assessor for Palisades Park who did confirm that the amounts that were being settled for are reasonable and within the realm of acceptable valuations.

Mayor Kim said that if they went through it, and it was the right of governing body, if they did not pass it, they would end up in court, paying more legal fees but at the end, the judge would award not 5 percent since 2008 and all the charges for the legal representation the town would have to pay. Mayor Kim said he was there with the counselor and the special attorneys and they negotiated a deal. Mayor Kim asked if they could talk about that.

Scott Krumholz said he did not want to get into the details.

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Mayor Kim said they got a real good deal and asked why they could not tell the public about what the deal was.

Scott Krumholz asked if they wanted to go into executive session as he would be more comfortable as he did not know what the Mayor was exactly going to say. Scott Krumholz asked Mayor Kim to whisper in his ear what Mayor Kim was going to say. Scott Krumholz said that was okay and said that part of the settlement involved a substantially lower interest rate that would not start until the actual settlement agreement was signed which was five percent from 2008 to around three percent starting with the date they started the settlement agreement.

Mayor Kim said they made a deal with the representing attorney to say they were not going to be paying a lump sum but pay 50 percent.

Roberta Stern clarified that it would be 25, 50, then 25.

Mayor Kim repeated what Roberta Stern said, stating that it was so they could divvy up the cost so it did not hurt the budget too much. Mayor Kim said that it was a great deal and if the council decided to do that, they were going to drop everything and they would go to court, with the professional saying it was not advisable as they were going to lose and pay more money. Mayor Kim said that before they voted, he wanted them to know and apologized to Councilwoman Lee. Mayor Kim asked to please do it again and said if Councilwoman Lee really wanted to do it, that Scott Krumholz should have let everybody know. Mayor Kim asked again to Sophia Jang to call Councilwoman Lee about her consent agenda.

Councilwoman Lee said that the reason she was voting no was that she could not feel that the valuations did not comport with market rates, and she did feel that she needed to take more time to get comfortable that the valuations were on par with market rates. Councilwoman Lee said her concern was that once it was settled, it would set a precedent for potentially other unhappy property owners. Councilwoman Lee said she wanted to be careful on what they settled on although it went back years from now. Councilwoman Lee said that unless they were open to take it out and table it, she was voting no.

Mayor Kim asked if they were able to table it or if time was of the essence.

Scott Krumholz said he did not know the answer to that because he was not involved in the lawsuits and did know that the tax appeal attorney was asking for it to be approved now so he could get back to the judge and they could put these things through. Scott Krumholz said he did not know what the effects would be if they did not pass it and they kicked the can down another month.

Councilwoman Lee said it had been opened for years.

Scott Krumholz said that when cases were this old and the judge were taking the cases under their wings and were trying to get them through, if the attorney from court reported back that it was on the council agenda and the council decided to push it or anything but approve the settlements, the judge had the jurisdiction and the ability to say off the table and they were going to try things and tell them to be there tomorrow. Scott Krumholz said that if they did not pass the settlements that night, they could be under an order to start trial in a reasonable manner.

Councilwoman Lee asked to make a motion to go into an executive session as she wanted to raise what her concerns were.

Mayor Kim said it was respectable and asked for a second.

Councilman Shin seconded. Mayor Kim stated they would be moving into an executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Following the executive session, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the executive session and to open back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Mayor Kim asked Sophia Jang to start the consent agenda again.

Councilman Kim: Yes (Recuse 2025-331)  
Councilwoman Lee: Yes  
Councilman Min: Yes (No for 2025-299, 2025-310, 2025-311, 2025-315, 2025-330, 2025-331 & Abstain 2025-319 and 2025-323)

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Councilman Shin: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes (No 2025-300, 2025-301, 2025-302, 2025-303, 2025-304, 2025-305, 2025-315, and 2025-323)  
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes (No 2025-299 because the salary had been increased the previous May and three employee additional salary increases did not seem to be fair to others. Abstain 2025-310 2025-315, 2025-330, 2025- 331. Recuse 2025-319 and 2025-323 because of a conflict.)

Mayor Kim asked what the tallies were and if there were any split votes.

Scott Krumholz said that the closest was 2025-315. Scott Krumholz stated that for 2025-315 he had two no and one abstain, so it depended on what the rest of the council did. Scott Krumholz asked how many people have not voted yet and stated they should finish the vote.

Mayor Kim said they did finish the vote.

Scott Krumholz apologized and said he thought there were still a few votes.

Mayor Kim asked for the tally of 2025-315.

Sophia Jang said that for 2025-315 there were two abstains and one no.

Mayor Kim asked for the rest of the votes.

Sophia Jang said that the rest of the votes were yes.

Mayor Kim said that passed.

Sophia Jang stated that the other one was 2025-323 which had two recuse, one no, and three yes.

Mayor Kim said that passed as well.

Scott Krumholz confirmed the statements.

Sophia Jang said that everything was done.

Mayor Kim stated that everything passed. Mayor Kim added that he wanted to take a moment for Roberta Stern to explain resolution 2025-299. Mayor Kim said that there was specific reasons Roberta Stern decided they deserved a raise and stated that he was there as well.

Scott Krumholz said that when Roberta Stern was explaining it, because it dealt with salary and employee issues, it was important not to mention the employees or the salaries.

Roberta Stern said it was a decision that was made to make the adjustments and the particular salaries that were brought at 2025-299 with the advice of the CFO who acknowledged the fact that the increases were within the salary range for those people and therefore they didn't need to go further. Roberta Stern said that within a discussion with the borough attorney, two of them had disagreed and as they explained to Councilwoman Won-Yoon at another meeting they had, therefore they did the resolution just to close the gap.

Mayor Kim said that Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she felt it was unfair that certain people were getting a raise while certain people were not. Mayor Kim added that Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that they recently got an increase in salary these people. Mayor Kim asked if that was correct.

Roberta Stern stated that everybody got three percent back when except one person. Roberta Stern said that person got nothing and this was an adjustment because of certain circumstances involving the work that had to be done and that person was getting the work done because there was nobody else present who was doing what that person was doing.

Mayor Kim said that the person was doing that work for free for many years and with that work generated revenue and money for the borough. Mayor Kim said if that person decided not to do it, they did not have to do it because it was not under their roles and responsibilities. Mayor Kim repeated that everything was passed. Mayor Kim stated to move to the Council Reports.

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**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported usually the library board meeting occurred at the second Thursday at 6:00PM every month but for November and December, it would be the third Thursday because some of the members had a conflict. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it would be November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

Mayor Kim said to reiterate that they passed a resolution, and Alice Albanese had been working in the library for many years and decided that it was time she retired. Mayor Kim said that they appreciated her services for many years and in return, through the approval and support from the governing body, Alex Monteleone would take her place and asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to let the board know who the new board member was and asked to invite him or her to the board. Mayor Kim said he would too.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she would let administrative staff for the board to make sure the invite for that meeting would go to Alex Monteleone.

Councilman Vietri stated he did not have anything to report.

Councilman Kim said that on October 30, they were going to have a comfort woman memorial ceremony at 12:15PM. Councilman Kim added that on November 8<sup>th</sup> they were trying to get the health fair, but they were still waiting for a yes from the county and it was taking a while to get a yes.

Mayor Kim asked who they would have to contact.

Councilman Kim said he did not know who Health Official Branka Lulic was contacting but thought she was contacting the senior citizen center.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern what she knew about it.

Roberta Stern asked if Councilman Kim would mind giving a call to her the next day to see what was missing and she would make some phone calls.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anything else and Councilman Kim said no.

Councilman Min reported that it was a memorable day for the police department as they just got approved by the accreditation for the police department. Councilman Min said that the director and the chief would explain on their report as well. Councilman Min said that it was good news.

Mayor Kim stated that it was very good news and told Councilman Min and Councilman Shin that they did a great job reforming the police station. Mayor Kim said they had two meetings and they were great. Mayor Kim said that the assessors and the evaluators said they should have a problem in the board meeting. Mayor Kim said it was very significant and asked Councilman Min to explain to the public why it was significant that the accreditation needed.

Councilman Min said that the accreditation was a book of standards so it would help them to not cause many liability issues because they had the standard to follow. Councilman Min said those were the basics of the accreditation and that it was going to help them with what to look for if there were any problems they could go back to the standard, and it was the way they could perform and function. Councilman Min just said to consider it as a book of standards.

Councilman Kim stated that he had joined the meeting for accreditation and he had asked what kind of benefit as a taxpayer he would get if the police department was accredited and what was said was that the insurance would go down because of accreditation so that would be a visible sign of getting the benefits. Councilman Kim said that there were many other factors that they were getting benefits such as lawyers for when the town would be getting sued, would have a second door because of the value of the accreditation. Councilman Kim said that out of 70 municipalities 25 were accredited and stated that was how hard it was and that they would be the 26<sup>th</sup> if everything was approved. Councilman Kim said they had tried many times, but they were very persistent, and they finally did it. Councilman Kim said they should really commend that they were able to pull through.

Councilman Min said that one scenario was if one of the officers wanted to file a lawsuit against the police department and the borough, whoever the attorney that represented the case would have a second thought as they would ask the question if the police department was accredited or not and that would give the attorney a second thought if they would take the case or not. Councilman Min said that was going to say that the police department had followed the proper procedure on their standards. Councilman Min

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said that there was no way they were going to get a win in the case. Councilman Min said that it would save them in the future.

Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Shin would like to add anything.

Councilman Shin said that it was okay.

Mayor Kim added that it also created a better morale. Mayor Kim said that the hardworking police officers liked what was happening with the accreditation and they liked standardization. Mayor Kim said that he did not like the word standardization because like Councilman Kim said, there was less than 30 percent who had been accredited. Mayor Kim said that it was standard or a baseline but was actually an excel and doing much more than a baseline. Mayor Kim said it was very significant for them because it brought a higher standard. Mayor Kim said they would also be always prone to get sued but it would be one less chip in the armor that the attorney would take. Mayor Kim said that there were many benefits and stated that they agreed they should thank the director, the chief, and the captain that had been working for a long time.

Councilman Shin reported that in October, the DPW did around 446 cases including 157 metal pickups, 87 electric pickups, and 34 dumpster pickups. Councilman Shin said they started to patch all the potholes to prepare for the winter and they started to do some temporary hot patch so it would be much better. Councilman Shin stated that if they saw any potholes to call the DPW. Councilman Shin that in the recreation department, they had a very beautiful party the previous weekend called Trunk and Treat and had too many to count. Councilman Shin said that not only the kids, but the parents got together, and it even included other towns. Councilman Shin said the parents knew it would be good and instead of visiting all the individual houses, all the kids got together and enjoyed other events all together.

Mayor Kim agreed and said he was very proud of recreation. Mayor Kim said it created a safer environment and more open space for other participants to join. Mayor Kim said that other towns such as Cliffside Park, Leonia, and even Fort Lee came by to enjoy the festivities. Mayor Kim said he was worried about the effect of the surrounding business on a Saturday when they had to close Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim said that when he was walking around, at the end of the day, the place was crowded, and it created more business as well. Mayor Kim said that it brought more unity and more opportunities to do Trunk or Treat. Mayor Kim said he believed the police department did their own Trunk or Treat as well and it was very good as well.

Councilwoman Lee stated she had nothing to report.

Mayor Kim said that they had the first community clean up of Broad Avenue and they picked up 367 pounds of garbage, but it was a coordination between the community members, council members and also the students. Mayor Kim said they did a contest of which group would pick up the most garbage and stated that 367 pounds was a lot. Mayor Kim said they noticed that there was less garbage because of the more garbage containers on Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim said he appreciated the police community and the students that were doing that. Mayor Kim added that the police community, himself, the director, the chief, the captain and also the traffic engineer were trying to see if they could create speed humps where all the prone areas of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street getting off Route off and on Route 46. Mayor Kim said that was where the most accidents were and everybody agreed that those were the problems they had to do something about. Mayor Kim said that every single time there was a car accident, they put LED stop signs and for some reason, people would disregard that too. Mayor Kim said that the next step was to figure out proper procedures with the DOT, the department of transportation, to see what the proper method and procedure was to put in speed humps on the prone areas on Route 46, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street coming in and coming out. Mayor Kim said that was going to make a difference in the accidents. Mayor Kim said that it was very unfortunate news but their dear friend and employee for many years, Antoinette Rotundo, dear sister of former Mayor Jimmy Rotundo, passed away. Mayor Kim said that was why they had the bunts and were hoping to get notification from Jimmy Rotundo to see when the wake or the funeral would be and hoped everyone would participate and join. Mayor Kim said it was very sad news and she had provided a lot for the community. Mayor Kim said they wished her soul would be kept with the Lord. Mayor Kim asked for the Borough Administrator Report.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Scott Krumholz had no report.

Allan Roth reported that they were going to be sitting down with the committee to start reviewing contracts for negotiations.

**BA REPORT:**

Roberta Stern stated she had a couple updates on ongoing projects in town. Roberta Stern said that there was a resolution tonight to pay the vendor and contractor that paved Central Boulevard which was done a couple months ago. Roberta Stern said it went back to 2024 but was just paid. Roberta Stern added that they had to get their new engineer involved because there were issues with some of the details from a previous year. Roberta Stern said they were paying the contractor for his work and DOT still had an inspection to make but they did not expect any issues. Roberta Stern said that the 1.4 million dollars grant for the Broad Avenue beautification and pedestrian improvement that was going to be lost but was now in place. Roberta Stern said that the design was in two different parts. Roberta Stern stated that the DOT required a design part which they had done with Pennoni and that everybody used to send everything off to the PMR system, but that particular grant had to be a hard copy delivered to the DOT in Newark. Roberta Stern said that finally took place earlier in the month.

Mayor Kim asked if they were in the process of getting it.

Roberta Stern said that they were working and now they had the time, which could take a few months, the DOT looked at the design, and once it was approved, the DOT would make recommendations for changes.

Mayor Kim said that most of it had to do with signalization, pedestrian signs, bumping out certain parts of Broad Avenue where they could afford to lose the space which they had seen in a lot of other towns.

Roberta Stern said that when they did finally hear from DOT in a couple months, because it took at least two or three months, then they would be going out to bid because a separate engineer would have to do the construction. Roberta Stern stated that it was one of those grants where they could not do the whole thing. Roberta Stern said that Pennoni at some point would redo their estimate because it included construction which they would not be doing. Roberta Stern said they had the plans and they could not lose it.

Mayor Kim said they could, and they assumed it could break ground early spring just like the last one as well.

Roberta Stern said that one in temple, they put out the bid, and the packages came back. Roberta Stern stated that it was awarded to DNL construction. Roberta Stern said that there were some small issues on the extent of the work that clarified and that work would be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. Roberta Stern stated that Lawn and Temple were two of the streets that had the worst bumps and potholes. Roberta Stern said that one of the other resolutions that they had tonight were the MOU with Bergen County. Roberta Stern said that they were now probably one of the only towns that didn't have that arrangement with them.

Mayor Kim said it was the shared service agreement.

Roberta Stern said that they had a hot box in case they needed that going forward and they would get it 2 days at a time. Roberta Stern said that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Highland had a reschedule for the pre-construction meeting which was coming up the upcoming Thursday. Roberta Stern said those streets were a lot of storm and water improvements.

Mayor Kim asked to explain why they had to do this.

Roberta Stern said that on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> there were very few storms drains on the lower side coming downhill and the water would run off into peoples houses. Roberta Stern said they had numerous complaints and visited those homes with the engineer. Roberta Stern said that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> included a lot of storm water drainage. Roberta Stern said that work was done first at one point which did not solve the problem and there was going to be additional work. Roberta Stern said that for the rest of the paving, she spoke with a contractor the previous week and they hoped to get at least the storm work done before the end of the year and possibly the paving in the spring. Roberta Stern said they also had to pass the resolution for another Broad Avenue grant that had dropped dead in October, and nothing had been done but they got it in time.

Mayor Kim said that there was one about beautification.

Roberta Stern said for that one, because they got an extension with the off consent in the last month, it would be on the November meeting. Roberta Stern said that the previous one on Broad, the one which was Washington to Edsall which was a \$249,000 grant was going to be for some sidewalks, trees, benches, etc. Roberta Stern said that because it was a smaller project, they did not get that much money

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but the design of that would be compatible with the other projects. Roberta Stern said that 12 Bellview was finally straightened out and the work would be starting the upcoming Wednesday. Roberta Stern said they had monitoring wells because it was garage and it had been going on for many years. Roberta Stern said that the environmental company that was staying on top of it came by and used spray paint to outline each of the locations and there were two of them within the side of it but they were notified and it would not be damaged. Roberta Stern added that the grading had to be brought up to match them.

Mayor Kim said that to make sure the trees behind. Roberta Stern said yes but added that it wasn't part of their work and was not in it.

Mayor Kim said they had to address the trees. Roberta Stern said that in order for that to be productive. Mayor Kim said that it affected the neighboring residents as well.

Roberta Stern said they would clean up everything. Roberta Stern said that Lincoln Street was a small street and a community development grant they had gotten. Roberta Stern said they asked why they did that and found out that with community development money, the streets that the approved for paving had to fall within the low-income areas. Roberta Stern stated that there was a map every year that showed where they would pay for certain things. Roberta Stern said when it was originally done, it was the other part of Lincoln. Roberta Stern said she had spoken to community development and it moved and they had to do a couple of new resolutions and agreements with the county. Roberta Stern added that Pennoni was preparing the payment application for that. Mayor Kim asked if it was for the repaving's. Roberta Stern said yes.

Mayor Kim asked about the Edsall project starting from the church all the way down to commercial.

Roberta Stern said that was a grant they were waiting for and that they would not be doing anything for that until around November but unfortunately because the government was on a shutdown, they may not hear about the money until the next year. Roberta Stern said that that one and 12<sup>th</sup> street were all part of 2 grants and they would not be hearing about it.

Mayor Kim said that 12<sup>th</sup> street would be the trio.

Roberta Stern said that they had outstanding fiscal year 19, 20, and 21 total of \$561,000 worth of grants that paperwork was never submitted to get the money. Roberta Stern said that between the CFO and the grant consultant they were trying to find out from the DOT if they got any of that money because they put together all the packets that were required, all the purchase order copies of the checks that the vendors have been paid so hopefully some of the grants would give up to 75 percent up front but she had not been able to get to the bottom of it. Roberta Stern said they would either have \$561,000 outstanding or they would have a percentage of that outstanding that they were trying to get back. Roberta Stern stated that fiscal year 24 was the one they talked about and that was pretty much it.

Mayor Kim asked that concerning the grants compared with last year, how much grants did they receive. Mayor Kim said that in his calculations they received.

Roberta Stern said they bonded 1.3 million for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Highland because they did not get any grant money for that and those were so important. Mayor Kim said they had no choice and that some of them did not apply. Roberta Stern said that the rest was grant money.

Mayor Kim said that before Roberta Stern got in, they did not have that much grant money coming in. Mayor Kim said that more grant money meant less taxpayers spending which was a very good thing and appreciated that. Mayor Kim asked how they were doing with the kiosks for the parking lots.

Roberta Stern said that on the previous Friday after they approved at the last meeting's off consent that agreement with PNC Bank, the T2 which was the heart of the mother company of all internet had to run a test with them and barcodes had been sent to them. Roberta Stern said the test was being done and thought that they would let her know by the end of the day but did not hear from him. Roberta Stern said that all things being equal, everything goes right, the week of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, they would start putting in the new parking meters.

Mayor Kim said that in the meantime, the police officers knew that they would not give citations on meters that were not really functional. Roberta Stern said only very few of them.

Mayor Kim said they did care about what the constituents felt about that so they were trying to help them out as well.

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Roberta Stern stated that the time and attendance they had been working on had taken a lot of time because it was very detailed oriented.

Mayor Kim asked to reiterate what the time and attendance meant. Roberta Stern said they would now have facial recognition clocks.

Mayor Kim said they were going to create an online self-registered HR system where the employees need to check in and check out when they leave. Mayor Kim stated it would be automatic as the current system had been a little bit outdated and were following suit to come with the modern times and it would be definitely helpful in managing employees to make sure that they were on time and leave on time.

Roberta Stern said that it was time-consuming because like anything else with computers it was whatever they put in they would get out and they had another meeting the next day on updating vacation and sick time.

Mayor Kim asked what Roberta Stern's comfortable starting to install date.

Roberta Stern said to have it up and running it would probably be the second week in November. Roberta Stern stated they had the meeting the next day and there was another bunch of information requesting. Roberta Stern said she had to talk about health benefits.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to talk about that as they had a big problem in not just the borough but also the whole state of New Jersey. Roberta Stern said that the state had announced months ago that they were expecting an increase of 37 percent. Mayor Kim said that it went up 22 percent the previous year. Roberta Stern stated that it was an additional 37 percent. Mayor Kim said it was for all municipalities of New Jersey that were in that joint health benefit. Roberta Stern said that there were some that were not in it and that they had gotten out and gone either direct with the company. Roberta Stern said they were providing the information about the loss experience which was workers comp and other things. Roberta Stern said that unfortunate people who had illnesses and all of that and included both our current employees and retirees. Roberta Stern stated with that information, they had their risk manager going out to companies individually which was either Aetna and Horizon, two of the health insurance funds which was similar to the joint insurance fund that they use for the property casualty, and there was another system called New Jersey Promise which one of the neighboring towns might have gone with and they came up with a savings of maybe 20 something percent instead of 37 but they were not sure they were going with it. Roberta Stern said that one of the people they had met with already turned them down because of the loss ratio. Roberta Stern said she was hoping that the other company was going out to a broader audience and hopefully something would come up that was better than 37 percent.

Mayor Kim said it was a very serious issue because it would increase the taxes incredibly. Mayor Kim said that it was not the municipalities fault as it was the state joint fund and that fund was going bankrupt. Mayor Kim said they had to find a remedy and hoped that Roberta Stern would provide the town with better remedy than 37 percent.

Roberta Stern said that almost anything was going to be better than 37 percent. Roberta Stern stated that it was not like going out and finding somebody else to write the home insurance because it was a very small group that could write health benefits.

Mayor Kim said that Roberta Stern was working with the CFO and someone from the JIF and was hoping for good results. Mayor Kim said that if any of the council members wanted to get a copy of Roberta Stern's progress on all the stuff she had not written, to just email her to get a copy.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Director Michael Gardner said that earlier in the month he responded to a motor vehicle accident where a pedestrian was hit and observed TEOs to make sure they were stopping traffic from going into the area and making sure they were following the rules. Michael Gardner said that the pedestrian went to the hospital and was not seriously injured. Michael Gardner stated that the motor vehicle driver was later identified and was issued a number of summonses. Michael Gardner added that he had taken management over the TEOs and that the program was currently being completely revised to improve productivity and accountability. Michael Gardner said they had sat down with each TEO and had them go over the rules and regulations and after they read through them, they had the TEOs sign off on a copy of them. Michael Gardner stated that they were ensuring that uniforms were the same uniforms being worn and the outermost garment displayed the traffic enforcement officer as they had reports from residents that someone was giving a ticket and did not know who they were, so they wanted their visibility to be known. Michael Gardner said that more changes to the program would be forthcoming. Michael Gardner said that the SPOs were being assisted by Captain Rotundo and that they were implementing a field training

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program that they have not had before. Michael Gardner stated that they had a number of SPOs in the academy that were not TEOs ahead of time so they did not know the town. Michael Gardner said that so everybody was on the same page, they were going to get a field training which was going to be at least 4 weeks and maybe up to 6 weeks as they want them to do the job the right way. Michael Gardner added that he wanted to point out that the previous month he introduced the whistleblower program because in law school he was concerned about female students that were leaving that law school at night and walking 4 blocks to Penn Station in Newark. Michael Gardner said they implemented a whistle program where they were provided with whistles so if they were walking to the station and felt threatened or concerned for their safety, they would take the whistle out and blow it. Michael Gardner said that it would either scare the person away or call attention to them for anybody around and if there happened to be a police officer nearby, they would know that somebody was in distress. Michael Gardner said they did not have any concerns at the moment for their safety, but it was just another safety measure he was implementing to look out for the best interest of the seniors. Michael Gardner said that they were going to make the whistles available at the police window so if anybody, even if they were not a senior, would be able to get one.

Mayor Kim said it was not only for the seniors.

Michael Gardner said that it was for anybody. Michael Gardner said that prior to his tenure, he was unaware of any chiefs, directors, consultants, or anybody applying for accreditation and if they did, they failed. Michael Gardner said that he would bring accreditation to Palisades Park and was told it never happened but it just happened. Michael Gardner said they talked to the CFO and was told they did not have the money as it cost \$25,000 to go through the accreditation. Michael Gardner stated he contacted the accreditation company and negotiated from \$25,000 to \$15,000 and then talked to JIF and the risk managers and got them to front the money, so nothing out of pocket from Palisades Park so it did not affect the budget. Michael Gardner stated that when they got fully accredited in March, they would deduct the savings from the town's liability insurance and the savings they had would go to them until they were reimbursed for the \$15,000. Roberta Stern stated that it was \$20,000. Michael Gardner said that the accreditation program was a team effort and would like to thank Chief Beck and the accreditation manager, Captain Rotundo and the rest of the team. Michael Gardner said that everybody bought into it and the main concern now was compliance to keep the accreditation. Michael Gardner said they were going to get accredited.

Councilman Shin said they had two cases of car thieves arrested in October.

Chief Beck stated he would report on that. Chief Beck first thanked Mayor Kim for the kind words for Captain Rotundo's aunt and the police department had been supporting him in the difficult times. Chief Beck said that they were making borough hall safer as right out the doors, there were two Narcan boxes with one at each entrance. Chief Beck explained that Narcan was for when someone was suffering an overdose. Chief Beck said it was a simple nasal applicator that anybody could administer to reverse the effects of the overdose. Chief Beck said they had an open police station where the call box was there. Chief Beck said that if somebody did come in that was experiencing an overdose, they would no longer wait for a police officer to get there and could administer it inside both entrances. Chief Beck added that they had a life VAC which was a life saving device if they were choking as it was a suction that somebody would administer if something was lodged deeper and something the Heimlich Maneuver could not remove. Chief Beck stated that they had them in the police cars as well and were happy to report a non-profit organization donated them. Chief Beck reiterated that it was everywhere and hopefully they would not need to use them, but if they did, they had them now. Chief Beck said that one of the greatest things they got was a sink in the patrol room. Chief Beck stated that prior to getting the sink, the officers would routinely deal with intoxicated parties or the homeless population and when they would have to touch them in rowdy situations without gloves on, there was nowhere to wash their hands other than down in the basement or in the hallway. Chief Beck stated it created a safety issue because the officers had to decide where they would like to wash their hands but could not because they did not want to leave their partner alone or if they were by themselves, they were not going to leave the inmate or somebody in custody unattended. Chief Beck said they brought the concern to Roberta Stern and she got them a sink there. Chief Beck stated that many years ago he got Mercer because they had a shortage on gloves and they were using the same gloves all day and they had a man who was run over and Chief Beck touched a bug bite and it was turned into that. Chief Beck stated that having somewhere to wash their hands was important. Chief Beck stated they had a very active month and that the officers were extremely happy with the community. Chief Beck said that the reform was to be out there, to be open, to be transparent, and to be engaged with the public. Chief Beck said that at the beginning of the month, they held an informative seminar down at the senior citizens building on elder abuse. Chief Beck said it was a serious topic but the seniors were treated to some beautiful music played by Officer Adolfo Rodriguez who played the piano for the seniors. Chief Beck said that on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the officers attended the bonfire for the Palisades Park High School Athletics Program which was a great time for them to interact with the high school population. Chief Beck said that some of the officers who did some juvenile matters were very

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excited. Chief Beck said that he was happy they brought it back because as a student in high school they used to do it for many years. Chief Beck said it was very good for the community building for the students and for everybody in the community. Chief Beck said that on October 10<sup>th</sup> they trained the library staff on safety issues and conducted a safety assessment at the library. Chief Beck said the Officer Bob Lee went over there, provided them with a Narcan box. Chief Beck said they got a good conversation from it.

Mayor Kim said it was very engaged and informative and they provided that if they needed any more services, they would be there for them.

Chief Beck said it would be good if they interacted and knew the library staff so they would be continuing the partnership as they moved along. Chief Beck stated that on October 11<sup>th</sup> they trained the department in defensive tactics at the high school and got to work on some moves. Chief Beck said it was really thanks to Englewood Cliffs Police Chief Will Engelman and Fort Lee Police Chief Matt Hintez who supplied them with the expert trainers to train the officers. Chief Beck stated they now had 2 officers, Officer Loretta and Officer Fernando, who in December, were going to a 2 week program to learn defensive tactics to become an expert. Chief Beck said they did not have that before but they were now going to have it. Chief Beck said that to strengthen what they learned there, they completed a 2 day composite use of force and arrest liability training by the Roselle Group which was held in the court room. Chief Beck said it was aimed at reducing liability when interacting with arrest such as violent suspects or somebody with excited delirium to show some awareness and to teach the officers. Chief Beck stated that it was a very strenuous course and the test was pretty difficult on day 2 but reported that all officers had passed. Chief Beck said that Roselle Group offered to train the officers for free even though it was a private company that came here so it was at no cost to the borough. Chief Beck said they had 3 more in the schedule. Roberta Stern stated that she was wondering because the JIF should be advised of the classes because they would reduce things. Chief Beck said that if they would like to, he could forward it to them. Chief Beck said they had 5 courses in the curriculum that were taking place fall as the training was a big part of the reform to make the officers confident out there in their profession. Chief Beck stated that on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Officer Bob Lee and their special Samuel Kim held another informative seminar on elder abuse and it was to get a different population at the United Healthcare Building on Broad Avenue. Chief Beck said he wanted the seniors in the community to understand that the police department appreciated them and cared about them. Chief Beck said that they did 3 programs in October just for seniors and stated that the police was there for them and they appreciated the seniors being a part of the community and were there to work with them. Chief Beck said that on October 25<sup>th</sup> the officers participated in Trunk or Treat and took one of the police vehicles, decorated it with Halloween stuff and had a ton of candy that the officers gave to all the kids. Chief Beck said congratulations to the recreation department because they did worked as he had never seen so many people on Broad Avenue. Chief Beck said the entire community policing unit went there and the officers got involved. Chief Beck said that there were some noticeable arrests. Chief Beck stated that on October 7<sup>th</sup>, Officers, James Park, Michael McDermott and Adolfo Rodriguez, arrested a 19 year old man from Palisades Park who was burglarizing vehicles or attempting on Temple Terrace. Chief Beck said the man fled before their arrival but the officers were smart enough to get a K9. Chief Beck stated that the K9 of Bergen County Sheriff's Department supplied tracked the guy down and as they were doing the track, they ended up at the 7-Eleven on Route 46 and the man had just shoplifted in there and threatened to harm the clerk. Chief Beck said it went from there to the next spot where they caught the person. Chief Beck said that more importantly, the things that were happening, the police officers were there and were there within minutes, maybe even just a minute. Chief Beck stated that they were very fast because they were out there keeping a good eye on the community. Chief Beck said there was another one on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 AM in the morning. Chief Beck said that Sergeant Sambogna, Officer Steve Kim and Officer Rob Then and Officer Mark Larrea responded to East Palisades Boulevard and Second Street for a suspicious person attempted to break in Vehicles. Chief Beck stated that Sergeant Sambogna located the man, a 37-year-old man from Fairview, arrested him and that man got a bunch of burglary charges and was lodged in the Bergen County Jail. Chief Beck said he did have the pleasure of taking the wonderful residents here on a tour to the headquarters. Chief Beck said the facility was clean, healthy, and very inviting for the officers as the reservations were now completed. Chief Beck said they were very proud to show it off to the community so if anybody else wanted to stop in and take a look, they were more than welcome. Chief Beck stated that the Bergen County Prosecutors Office supersession had been removed a couple weeks ago.

Mayor Kim asked what a supersession was.

Chief Beck said that for a period, the Bergen County Prosecutors Office oversaw the internal affairs function of the Police Department which had been removed, and it was restored back to the police department. Chief Beck said there was a press release as some media had started to pick up on that so they would see the articles that were out there. Chief Beck said it restored confidence in the department to handle its own responsibilities and as chief he could say they were all handled with integrity, fairness and openness. Chief Beck stated that he wanted to congratulate the officers for reaching the milestone on

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accreditation. Chief Beck said that Captain Rotundo was a standout when it came to the paperwork and would not be surprised.

Mayor Kim asked Captain Rotundo to stand up to be recognized.

Chief Beck said he would not be surprised if the accreditation agency sought Captain Rotundo to go on board with them to help them because there were only 9 assessors for the entire state of New Jersey and that was why the appointment was scheduled months in advance. Chief Beck said that the accreditation was a testament to Rotundo for helping out with that and everybody there but it was everybody in the apartment that the congratulations went to. Chief Beck said there were standards that they had to comply with but they had to prove the compliance so if the officers did not act in the capacity of the standards, they could not prove the compliance. Chief Beck said the officers acted in compliance with the standards and were able to demonstrate that and because they were able to demonstrate that, they were operating in compliance in the capacity of the compliances to meet the standards to be accredited. Chief Beck asked if anybody had any questions.

Mayor Kim asked if all the training was a part of accreditation.

Chief Beck said it was all a part of it.

Mayor Kim said the officers went to the high school defense and had never seen the police department officers so studious. Mayor Kim saw them working really hard and could never imagine that happening and gave Chief Beck kudos. Mayor Kim congratulated the police department.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mayor Kim stated there was no engineer report.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and open to the public.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to speak up.

Nam Kyung Kim came up and stated she was following up regarding a foreign issue because she had not received any issues so far.

Mayor Kim asked if she had heard anything.

Nam Kyung said she had not heard anything.

Mayor Kim said they were working on it right now and to expect that on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, they talked about how the draining in a pitch. Mayor Kim stated they were creating the drain and the connection to the main line.

Roberta Stern stated that they hope to finish the drainage work before the end of the year but maybe not until the spring.

Nam Kyung asked if they were going to complete the drain by spring.

Mayor Kim said they were hoping to break ground by this year.

Roberta Stern said they were going to know more after the pre-construction meeting. Roberta Stern said she spoke with the contractor last week and asked what the time was going to be. Roberta Stern stated that the contractor said he wanted to get the drainage work done and the storm sewer work done before the end of the year but it may not pave until the spring.

Susan Brauer from 50 Henry Avenue congratulated the police department and gave their condolences to Captain Rotundo. Susan Brauer said that when Gordon Johnson was there, he mentioned 4 streets off Grand Avenue were going to have crosswalks and she missed one. Susan Brauer stated she had Edsall, Henry, Brinkerhoff but did not know the last one.

Roberta Stern stated it was Palisades. Roberta Stern stated that they also asked for Roff but there were some special circumstances at Roff so they were not doing that at the same time as the other 4.

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Susan Brauer stated that it had been going on for a few years, but between Broad Avenue and Grand Avenue, there was no light on either end, or for years it had been used as a shortcut by New Jersey Transit buses when the street was not on their route. Susan Brauer said she had called for years. Susan Brauer added that from about 5 to 8 every night, the buses went down 1 at a time, 3 at a time, and sometimes stopped in the middle of the street and the houses would shake.

Mayor Kim said he had seen it before too.

Susan Brauer stated that when Captain Gasparovich was there, he called New Jersey Transit directly, things had stopped for a while, but it was back and they had a lot more kids playing on the street, a lot of them on bikes and it was dangerous. Susan Brauer said that if there was anything they could do, the buses should not be going up and down that street.

Chief Beck said that they would take care of it and that the director just informed him that the director would call New Jersey Transit the next day and have a conversation with them. Chief Beck said it was against the ordinance for them to be doing that as it was not just New Jersey Transit buses, but it was other buses and what not. Chief Beck asked which days she believed it to happen the most.

Susan Brauer said it was Monday through Friday as it was every day. Susan Brauer added that they had brought it up a long time ago, but they had a lot of kids in the school and in the winter there were a lot of seniors that owned homes and they did not have a service that shoveled for them and they waited till they found the right people to pay to shovel. Susan Brauer asked if it was possible to get a program started where kids could get school credit or some kind of credit to come and shovel. Susan Brauer said she did not expect it for free and they would pay, but it was always good to know someone was going to show up and they would be able to get out.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth if there were any liabilities concerning kids doing social work, community hours, to clean the snow for seniors who needed their service.

Allan Roth said they might be able to work with if the high school had a key club or other social club to do that good Samaritan work so therefore they would probably be outside of any kind of liability. Allan Roth said Susan Brauer could also try to see if the office and the new superintendent might be able to reach out from key club or any other clubs. Allan Roth stated there were many different service oriented groups in a lot of the high schools.

Mayor Kim said he would not mind the service to exist, but he was talking about liability. Mayor Kim said someone had to cover for their liability.

Allan Roth said that there would be something for the good Samaritan Law so they would have to see if there was anything else that would need coverage. Allan Roth stated that if it was through the school program then it could be covered by the student accident fund that schools were required to have but it was something that would have to be worked out in some kind of agreement with the school. Allan Roth stated that the town may not even have to be involved as the school could just set up a program themselves.

Mayor Kim said he believed so too as it was a venue for the school system. Councilwoman Lee said she would send a note to the superintendent and see if there was a way.

Susan Brauer said that if anyone wanted to contact her that they had her name and number.

Mayor Kim said they first had to make sure if there was a way.

Councilman Kim said he had a program called Shovel for Love a long time ago so a church did it but the issue was the same liability issue.

Mayor Kim said they were almost always insured.

Councilman Kim said he was not sure about the American law but if the school did it, the school would have to agree to it unless each house owner wrote a consent that they would not sue the person shoveling because the last person who shoveled the house was responsible for anybody falling on the property. Councilman Kim said the school might agree or not so they would need a clear judgement about who would be liable in case anybody fell. Councilman Kim said that if everybody said that was okay, then it would be the way.

Mayor Kim said they would have to think about before the fact and after the fact.

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Roberta Stern said there was another program she saw that for the safety of the people who wanted their sidewalks shoveled that a list was provided that was done through the local newspaper. Roberta Stern said the kids would contact a thing in the local newspaper available for shoveling and it was very effective because people had their phone number and they knew who they were and they did not have to depend on a stranger to come. Roberta Stern said she could try and put that together to see where she could remember it from.

Mayor Kim said they would do some research, but they would really have to consider the liability first. Susan Brauer said her last comment was that when they were reassessed which her assessment went up considerably and she called the assessment company. Susan Brauer stated that with the company, she went through a lot of things and it was what it was. Susan Brauer said stopped by someone who had been in the town for 50 years and that person said Susan Brauer got a break on her taxes and Susan Brauer asked what they were talking about. Susan Brauer stated that person said that Susan's taxes were reduced because she no longer associated with the former employee Susan Brauer responded that it was "the biggest croc of you know what that I ever heard." Susan Brauer asked where this person heard that and they responded that it was out of Borough Hall. Susan Brauer said she would not mention who told her but stated that if anybody had heard that, that it had to stop as it was despicable and if they knew of anybody saying that, she would like to see them eyeball to eyeball so they could talk to the assessor like she had. Susan Brauer said that it should not be happening in a town this small.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anybody else.

Marsha Schor came up and said that they got a tour of the police department, and it was really lovely. Marsha Schor said a lot of credit went to the chief and all the police department for doing that because the reports of what it looked like before were really bad.

Ernst Beerlie came up and said that Eagle Diner had structures in the back that were put up for code and looked horrible as far as the beautification of Palisades Park. Ernst Beerlie said he did not know if they met fire code or safety codes.

Mayor Kim asked if it was the one that was set up for outside dining.

Ernst Beerlie said yes and stated that it was an eyesore in the back. Ernst Beerlie also mentioned that on the way down to Shoprite on the right-hand side, the town should look into taking that property over that was not completed for years and years and years. Ernst Beerlie said it was the water park.

Mayor Kim said it was also a sore eye.

Ernst Beerlie said they should look to take that over and see if they could do affordable housing there.

Mayor Kim recalled asking the owners when it was going to be completed and the representative said they were going to start building by early next year. Mayor Kim said he would reaffirm and he would give Ernst Beerlie a call.

Roberta Stern said that the construction official had been asking the owners to pay for the plans and there was a quite a bit of money that said they would be coming soon. Roberta Stern said nothing would be reviewed until then.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and come back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the regular meeting.

Councilman Shin motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

Attest:

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Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk

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**MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00PM**

**STATEMENT:**

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

1. Notice was filed January 9, 2025 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://palisadesparknj.org/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE BROUGHT BY COUNCILWOMAN WON-YOON.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

Mayor Kim stated before the governing body went over the adoption of minutes, he wanted to recognize an important presence, New Jersey State Senator Gordon Johnson. Mayor Kim asked Gordon Johnson to stand and be recognized. A round of applause was heard all around. Mayor Kim stated he believed Senator Johnson had come to the borough to present good news.

Senator Johnson agreed he did.

Mayor Kim stated this had been a request of the Palisades Park Borough for over thirty years.

Senator Johnson thanked Mayor Kim and jokingly stated he was being put on the spot. Senator Johnson thanked the mayor, council, and residents of Palisades Park. Senator Johnson stated he was present to talk about issues with crosswalks throughout Palisades Park that had arose for the last thirty years. Senator Johnson stated he had received a call from the Borough Administrator Roberta Stern, and because of this call his office had been going back and forth with the Department of Transportation via email. Senator Johnson continued that he had received an email that day from the DOT reading, "We issued the following intersections of Palisades Park, Bergen County: Route 93 & Grand Avenue & Edsall Boulevard, Route 93 & Brinkerhoff Avenue, Route 93 & Henry Avenue, Route 93 & Palisades Boulevard. Senator Johnson stated that he was advised the engineer had to comply with the ADA. Senator Johnson stated that he thought a crosswalk was just two parallel lines but there was actually a lot more engineering involved. Senator Gordon stated that the DOT estimated these projects would be completed by the spring of 2026, and only because of the winter season starting.

Mayor Kim reiterated the New Jersey Senator Gordon Johnson with the request of the borough administrator Roberta Stern, agreed to expedite the crosswalk projects after thirty years. Mayor Kim stated after many years of previous mayors requesting the state to implement additional crosswalks on Grand Avenue to make it safer, thirty years later there requests had been approved. Mayor Kim stated they were going to get four new crosswalks that would be ADA compliant to include handicap ramps, and safety lights. Mayor Kim thanked Senator Johnson again. Senator Johnson announced to the residents of Palisades Park, that if they had any issues, complaints, or concerns to contact his office.

Senator Johnson announced to the governing body that his office consisting of Ellen Park, and Shama Heider were there to support them in any way they could.

Mayor Kim thanked Senator Johnson again.

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**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Work Session of the Mayor and Council: September 15, 2025  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council: September 29, 2025

Mayor Kim asked if council members had any concerns about the minutes before they passed. When no concerns arose, Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the adoption of the minutes. Councilman Shin made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-27 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 300 of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park Entitled “Zoning “ to Modify Article V Entitled” Signs” to Require Illumination of Residential Address Plates and Creating More Uniformity for Nonresidential Signage**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a comment. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she thought the sign was more of a personal preference to the residents. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she could understand the sign being mandatory for nonresidential properties, but for residents this should be a choice. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why the borough wanted to regulate residential signage.

Mayor Kim replied that this was for safety reasons and homes were hard to locate at nighttime. Mayor Kim stated the new duplex constructions had illuminated signage as well because of the safety concerns. Mayor Kim said illuminated signage wouldn't only be to benefit the residents, but also for Uber drivers, and any at home services being provided. Mayor Kim stated all new residential properties would be grandfathered to do this, and the illuminated signs did not mandatorily apply to old homes but to new homes.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated one of the purposes of an ordinance was to protect residents' rights rather than to regulate them.

Mayor Kim agreed they were protecting residents. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't about rights; it was about the borough's rights. Mayor Kim continued and stated the reason the borough was doing this was because by law it was their right. Mayor Kim stated it wouldn't be presented as an ordinance if the borough attorney deemed it would infringe on the rights of the residents. Mayor Kim stated it was their duty to make these kinds of decisions, and reminded Councilwoman Won-Yoon that she was able to vote no. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

Councilman Min asked if this ordinance was aimed at newer and future homes to require illuminated signage. Mayor Kim agreed it was.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated it applied to all new construction and to anyone who came to the borough seeking a CO or continued CO who would have to abide by the ordinance.

Councilman Min asked if the continued CO would be one for the residential tenants as well because they would have to obtain a CO.

Scott Krumholz stated he didn't think a new tenant would require a homeowner to get a CCO. Scott Krumholz stated he believed a CCO would have to be obtained if a new home were being constructed or if a house was being sold.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated a CCO which was a continued certificate of occupancy was when there was a change in tenants.

Mayor Kim stated CO.

Roberta Stern replied no and said that a CO was for new construction and as far as she knew the tenant didn't own the property and the CO would have to be obtained by new owners.

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Mayor Kim stated he agreed.

Roberta Stern stated that if there was a new owner, they didn't do any work, but they still got the continued certificate of occupancy, they would do it but not the tenant.

Councilman Min asked if this was for the future building or if the landlord wanted to actually do what they wanted to do, this would be for safety purposes to brighten up the numbers to easily see, if there was any way they could add current buildings as it would take a while to get the ordinance.

Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min meant by current buildings. Councilman Min said not the newer buildings.

Mayor Kim said they were not talking about the newer buildings. Scott Krumholz said that it applied.

Mayor Kim said that the only thing was that anything under the ordinance was law but without the underline, it was already existing as the underlined was the one that had been modified.

Scott Krumholz said that if they looked at section 300-34 subparagraph L, it applied to not only certificates of occupancy but continued certificates of occupancy and also included tenant certificates. Scott Krumholz said that anytime that a homeowner came before the building department with an application for a CO or a CCO then they would be required to comply with the order so it did apply to existing buildings when they affected some type of change that would warrant the issue of a CCO or a CO.

Councilman Min said he would like to see all houses light up on their numbers in a very short time.

Scott Krumholz said it was the best they could do as it would be very difficult to require all current homeowners to come in, apply and do it within a certain amount of time. Scott Krumholz said he did not think it was realistic or believe that it would be appropriate.

Roberta Stern said they considered the practicality of that, but it did not really make sense.

Scott Krumholz said it was more of a phased in approach but ultimately all buildings at some point would be done. Scott Krumholz said it would be new tenant, new construction for a permit for a CO or CCO, or sale of a house.

Mayor Kim said he thought that it was for rebuilding, demolition of new homes, and houses that required a CO because of a construction but CCO as in any new tenants would be two to four years gap before they were going to say they had to put in lighted numbers.

Scott Krumholz said that it would be one of the requirements if they were coming in for a CCO, one of the requirements would be that they would have to have an address plat that lighted up.

Mayor Kim said CCO for rentals. Mayor Kim said that was a big difference.

Roberta Stern said the way she read it was that it was not for a CCO for tenant change.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other things the council members wanted to address before they put them in the back burner.

Councilwoman Lee asked Mayor Kim to repeat what he said.

Mayor Kim said the conversation led to the fact that they needed clarifications of what the CCO and a CO did. Mayor Kim said he would rather get it done while they had a change instead of working on their problems on the regular session as it should be done after the work session, but they were stuck there again at the regular session debating on something that should have been yes or no. Mayor Kim asked them if they had any more concerns before they struck it out.

Scott Krumholz said he could, but his suggestion would be to get an appeal for the council whether they would want it to apply to CCOs or if they would want an exception where it did not apply to new tenants.

Mayor Kim said that instead of talking to the building department, they could decide on their own.

Scott Krumholz said that if it needed to be remodified, it could be modified at the reintroduction next month.

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Mayor Kim asked if they could change it right there. Scott Krumholz said no.

Mayor Kim said it would have to be modified right then and there, and it seemed like whether it was a CCO or a CO they would have to get lights.

Scott Krumholz said it was the first reading and that they could, but the question was that before they made any changes to it if the council wanted to change it from CO and have a limited.

Mayor Kim said they wanted the opinion of the council members before they moved forward even though they were going to strike it out.

Scott Krumholz said they might not need to strike it out.

Mayor Kim told the council members that he wanted to take it out because his intentions were for houses that needed CO for construction of a new home but never thought a CCO would be involved here as CCOs were rentals. Mayor Kim said there were a lot of rental turnarounds so it might have been a burden for the residents.

Councilman Kim said it would be.

Mayor Kim said he agreed with Councilman Kim and asked if anyone else agreed with them that it should only be CO and not CCO.

Councilman Shin said that CCO was for tenant changes and that in the work session he asked if it was for new construction only. Mayor Kim said yes.

Councilman Shin said that CCO was not for new construction and even for existing houses when they changed tenants. Councilman Shin added that it stated on January 1st of next year, no CCO would be issued without putting the lights.

Mayor Kim said that he agreed with Councilman Kim, Councilman Shin and Councilwoman Lee.

Councilman Vietri asked if they could get an opinion from building. Mayor Kim said that was fine. Mayor Kim said they were not doing a vote and were just asking for an opinion.

Councilman Vietri stated that was why he asked. Mayor Kim said it was not going through this month and thought it was a good idea. Mayor Kim asked how Councilman Vietri felt about that and that 3 council members thought it was a good idea but they should only implement it for COs and not CCOs.

Councilman Vietri said he would just like to speak to the building department.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon how she felt. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that it was all safety and stated that unless the entire town had a same way to implement the address, that was not going to be happening.

Mayor Kim said it would slowly but surely happen. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min how he felt.

Councilman Min said they should post pone it for now. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min agreed that they would rather not do CCO but only CO's.

Councilman Min said the purpose of the ordinance was for safety so he would like to get it done as soon as possible for everybody, for every residential building because that was going to cover the liability of them trying to deliver stuff or whatever in the night. Councilman Min said if he could include the tenant portion as well, that was why he asked if they could actually put any warnings saying that the current, not new buildings but old buildings, could be added to eliminate.

Mayor Kim said that would be the CO as COs were renovations. Mayor Kim said anything beyond breaking shelves or attachments or fixtures, if they did plumbing it would be a CO so that would be when they would have to fix the lights.

Councilman Min said if it was only for renovations, new buildings, or COs it was going to take a while to illuminate the buildings in Palisades Park.

Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min liked CCO. Councilman Min said he liked CCOs.

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Mayor Kim said that now everybody knew what the situation was and asked to bring it to the next month. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to verify with the building department to define what they meant and that they were considering and needed a recommendation from Tom O'Malley as they needed to understand what CO and CCO was at the end. Mayor Kim said they were going to strike out the ordinance from the introduction and asked if that was okay. Mayor Kim said they had no more introduction of ordinances for November.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-26                      Establishing of the Affordable Housing District 1 (AHD-1) and  
Regulating Development Requirements for Block 617, Lots 21, 22 &  
23**

Scott Krumholz said it was the amendment to the ordinance that was passed by the council late last year as a result of one of the settlement agreements with one of the property owners as part of the owners plan required a 3.67-foot setback from the front yard. Scott Krumholz said that the ordinance was drawn up by their planner and no one noticed that the minimum front yard set back in the prior ordinance was 10 feet and not 3.67 feet. Scott Krumholz said this ordinance was to comply with their obligations under the settlement agreement and since this was what they originally intended and was the plan, they were modifying the ordinance from 10 feet to 3.67 feet. Scott Krumholz said he believed the developer just for notation was before the planning board.

Mayor Kim said it already passed but the developer cooperated. Scott Krumholz asked if a decision had been rendered. Mayor Kim said it had passed.

Scott Krumholz said they could pass it either way but the developer went forward with the variance so they would not even need it.

Mayor Kim said it was okay and that the planning board made some poles because 3.67 was too close to the sidewalk and it was very close to the entry of the garage door, so the developers complied.

Scott Krumholz said it may be moved but he would still ask the council to consider just for housekeeping, so it did not look like there was anything they were not carrying out their responsibilities under the settlement agreement.

Councilwoman Lee asked if it was consistent with what was passed at the planning board.

Scott Krumholz said yes as 3.67 was the application that the developers came with and because it was a smaller setback than the 10 foot which they normally required, the planning board had the developers put bollards in front of the property.

Mayor Kim said it was visible lights that told them that the car was coming out of the garage. Mayor Kim said they also requested trees and flood lights with trees next to the sidewalk so if the car went by it was still protected with the trees, so the developers decided to put four or five trees in. Mayor Kim said they were cooperative as the town did what they could. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim asked to close the regular session and open to the public.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-26:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they have three minutes to talk about ordinance 2025-26.

Ernst Beerle said he attended a few meetings pertaining to the subject and it used to be 6 or 7 floors and 70 units and it got knocked down. Ernst Beerle asked why all of a sudden it was an okay thing again. Ernst Beerle said he attended the other meetings and was confused that all the people came to say it was no good and it was knocked down.

Scott Krumholz said there were two lawsuits as this landowner bought two separates. Scott Krumholz said that the landowner joined the builders remedy case which was why they were building what they were building as they went through that avenue and were able to obtain the relief they got from court, and it was subject to some negotiations, but the borough had very little leverage in those negotiations. Scott Krumholz added that the landowners filed another lawsuit against the zoning board to try to overturn but that was withdrawn once they got what they wanted with builders remedy.

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Ernst Beerle said he did understand that they needed affordable housing but still did not like the idea because of the neighbors and it was terrible.

Mayor Kim said that their hands were tied and the landowners used the law against them. Mayor Kim said that they started with 70 something units but ended up with 40 something units.

Scott Krumholz said they cut it down.

Mayor Kim said it would not happen again on the fourth round as they were trying to prevent the future and fix the past. Mayor Kim asked if there was anybody else. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and return to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-26.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Shin seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	No
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilman Vietri	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	No

Sophia Jang stated that it was three to three, so the mayor had to tie break.

Mayor Kim asked who said no.

Sophia Jang stated that it was Councilman Min, Councilman Vietri, and Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to explain to the people and to the council members why it was dangerous to say no to judge deemed mandates from the court.

Scott Krumholz said this instance was a tad bit difference from some of the other builders remedy actions that the council had taken simply because the planning board application by the builders remedy plaintiff had already concluded, and they received the approvals from the board, so it was somewhat of a move ordinance but the bottom line was that everything the board did with regard to affordable housing was now being viewed under a microscope by a judge that was not very friendly with the borough from past inactions. Scott Krumholz said that voting the ordinance down or not approving the ordinance even though it was ministerial in nature, could send reverberations through the builders remedy that could potentially impact if nothing else the judges opinion moving forward for anything that may come up in that lawsuit. Scott Krumholz said it was somewhat risky to the residents of the borough to not be strictly compliant with the settlement agreement and court orders.

Mayor Kim said if it did not pass, he assumed that council members could be subpoenaed under court as well.

Scott Krumholz said that the judge could order them in which would be more forceful than a subpoena.

Mayor Kim said it was because they were not following the law or the settlement they were trying to create and finalize so future builders remedies would not happen. Mayor Kim said it was so the borough could get its rights back and their ability to decide for the fourth round how they were going to make sure that overdevelopment would not happen.

Scott Krumholz said the judge would see based upon the record who either abstained or voted against any particular resolution or ordinance related to the builders remedy and the judge had the ability to call that person or people or the entire council into their chambers or courtroom to question as to the reasons for doing x, y, and z. Scott Krumholz said the judge had that authority but had no idea if they would do that.

Mayor Kim asked what would happen if it did not pass.

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Scott Krumholz said that the application before the Planning Board by DRC had already been approved.

Mayor Kim said it was approved but the thing was it was approved because knowingly that they were about to pass the ordinance.

Scott Krumholz said they were seeking a variance, and he did not know what was approved and how as he thought they went for a variance.

Mayor Kim said they went through a variance and got it approved because the planning board knew the council still hadn't passed the ordinance.

Scott Krumholz said it was still within the 45-day appeal period so if it were to be appealed and objected to by some 3rd party and potentially overturned, without the ordinance they would have to go back to the drawing board and pass the ordinance in the future. Scott Krumholz said it seemed like a waste of time but they would have to do that if in fact the decision of the board was somehow overturned in the courts. Scott Krumholz said that for right now because it was approved, it still had not become final because it had not passed the 45-day appeal period but they got the variance. Scott Krumholz said that the ordinance was so they could go as of right before the board without needing a variance but they asked for a variance, got the variance, had the 3.67 setback so the ordinance was not critical but more administrative. Scott Krumholz said that if it did not pass, it did not really affect much if anything in terms of DRC's plans with that problem.

Mayor Kim said he did not understand why the council members were reluctantly saying no to court mandates and putting in a pickle. Mayor Kim said he did not understand why they would want to logically try to put us in harm's way. Mayor Kim asked if it was political and said he did not know. Mayor Kim said it did not make sense because they had no choice but to say yes to the settlements. Mayor Kim said that it came to him and asked why they had to vote on it. Mayor Kim asked if it was better to abstain or recuse.

Scott Krumholz said the mayor would have to have a reason for recusing.

Mayor Kim said he would abstain. Scott Krumholz said it would not pass because it was three to three.

Mayor Kim said it was just a moving.

Scott Krumholz said it was for the purposes of DRC's present application, but it would be moved if no one appealed the decision as the decision became final in 40 days.

Roberta Stern asked if the DRC could make changes to their plan and get more out of the plan because it was not approved. Roberta Stern asked if DRC could change their plans within that 45-day period.

Scott Krumholz said no because they would have to go back through the planning board to make changes and it would have to be something that was part of the agreed plan. Scott Krumholz said that it was an administrative thing and was to just show the court that they were doing what they said they were going to do in the settlement agreement. Scott Krumholz said that the bottom line was that at the present time, the appeal period had not run meaning that someone could appeal the decision and they could be back to the Planning Board but for right now they were approved and no one had appealed so right now it was moved.

Mayor Kim said he did not understand why three council members were saying no to it and would try to put the governing body and the community in harm. Mayor Kim said he hoped everyone understood what they were trying to do. Mayor Kim said that just because he was doing a split vote did not mean he liked developments, but he knew the facts. Mayor Kim said the three people were not acting towards logic and it had to be something else, and he did not approve what they were doing. Mayor Kim said he would have to say yes because it was the right thing to do so he said yes. Mayor Kim said he was very disappointed.

Sophia Jang announced that Ordinance 2025-26 was approved for final adoption by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2025. Sophia Jang stated that 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. Mayor Kim said it was very dangerous what the three council members were doing.

A public member asked what the outcome was. Mayor Kim asked them not to speak out like that as they would get their time to talk.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 2025-294**      **Approval to submit an award extension request for MA-2024-00308 to the New Jersey Department Of Transportation. - FY 24 Broad Avenue Streetscape – PASSED AT THE WORK SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 2025-295**      **Amending Resolution 2025-289 (processing fees) to include additional vendor and authorized Employees for accounts – PASSED AT THE WORK SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 2025-332**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Municipal Administrator**

**RESOLUTION 2025-333**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Police Director**

Mayor Kim said that there was an impromptu resolution for a consent agenda but had to be moved to off consent agenda for Resolution 2025-332 and 2025-333. Mayor Kim said that they would get back to those two.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked to make a motion. Mayor Kim said she could not because they were not even there yet.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked to make a motion for Resolution 2025-299 to move it to off consent.

Mayor Kim said it was already off consent. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was not.

Mayor Kim said they were not in the consent agenda and told Councilwoman Won-Yoon to not go out of order. Mayor Kim said Councilwoman Won-Yoon would have her turn in consent agenda. Mayor Kim said she would have a right to do a motion, but they were in off consent.

**RESOLUTION 2025-332**      **Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Municipal Administrator**

Mayor Kim said it came together with Resolution 2025-333 and added that 2025-292 and 2025-295 passed in the work session as they had to be passed to get the extensions awarded and to authorize the accounts so they could pay the people to start the kiosk parking meters which the people were waiting for. Mayor Kim said 2025-332 and 2025-333 were coming together because over the weekend, Councilwoman Won-Yoon requested that she wanted to create an off-consent agenda authorizing the clerk to advertise for municipal administrator and authorizing the clerk to advertise for the police director. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to explain to the rest of the governing body why she decided to do it.

Councilman Min started to speak but Mayor Kim said that he asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that she and Councilman Min did.

Mayor Kim said they could do both.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said her understanding was that the contract of Borough Administrator was ending at the end of the year so they needed to advertise for borough administrator so they could actually go through the right process.

Mayor Kim asked if that was the right process.

Scott Krumholz said that by the business administrator, the ordinance was referred to the title as municipal administrator was governed by the New Jersey statutes and New Jersey statutes allowed the mayor to recommend and the council to appoint a business administrator for the term which was typically the term of the mayor. Scott Krumholz said that obviously the mayor and council at any point in time could, with a certain way to vote could move to dismiss the municipal administrator but pursuant to the statute if that were the case the administrator would be entitled to certain benefits such as three months of pay. Scott Krumholz said it was not typical as usual when a business administrator was brought on by mayor and council, it was for the term so if that was something Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to discuss with the council and the council wanted to do that, that was certainly the councils prerogative just not typical.

Mayor Kim asked about the police director.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was the same with the police director as the contract was ending by the end of the year. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it was actually the same position as once they were approaching the end of their contract, it was common sense to advertise whether that position would be filled by the same person or not.

Councilman Min said it was going to be a simple advertisement for both position whether they renewed the contract or hired someone new so they could accept applications just to prepare for later.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth how he felt about it.

Allan Roth said that he did not like to give legal advice in an open session, but the statutes were different and they had in the ordinance, the police director had an ordinance where if the director had a term, that was the term. Allan Roth said that if there was no term in the ordinance, then they would go by the contract term. Allan Roth said they did not have to advertise as there was no statutory requirement to do so. Allan Roth said that the business administrator was a completely separate issue. Allan Roth stated that the term of the business administrator, unless set by agenda to terminate, which it could have, but that was not how the statute worked. Allan Roth said that the statute read they stayed for the term of the mayor and if it was severed prior to that, that statute would give them three months' pay. Allan Roth said he did not remember Roberta Stern's appointment was for a specific term by resolution.

Mayor Kim said he did not believe they had a specific term. Roberta Stern said it was from the date of hire in November 27, 2024 through December 31st of 2025.

Allan Roth asked if that was the contract. Mayor Kim said that was the contract.

Roberta Stern said that was said in the resolution and believed the contract said the same thing. Allan Roth said that it would then be for the term.

Mayor Kim said because Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min wanted to do it, the mayor approved it.

Mayor Kim said they would have to go through an interview process and sit down with the current police director and the bough administrator to figure what they accomplished and really evaluate the accomplishment and what they were working on. Mayor Kim said that they should have done that before they even announced they were going to consider somebody else. Mayor Kim added that they all agreed that both positions expired on December 31st. Mayor Kim said that meant no matter what, even though they did an interview process or assessment or evaluation of their work, they might have to rice them. Mayor Kim asked if they would have to R.I.C.E them.

Scott Krumholz said if it was to get into performance related issues then yes as the employees by necessity to be noticed.

Mayor Kim said that should be prudent because without that, why would they open it up. Mayor Kim added that 2 of the council members were going to expire and the next year there was going to be 2 new council members, so they were going to have do the meeting again next year as well. Mayor Kim said that was why he asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min why they decided to do this.

Councilman Min said it was just simple advertisement.

Mayor Kim said that was the reason why he put it in there but they were not evidently answering why beyond stating it was simple advertisement. Mayor Kim said it was not normal, especially when they knew that both positions were expiring at the end of the year. Mayor Kim said it was going to happen next year no matter how they sliced it. Mayor Kim added that they did not provide them with interviews and they still decided to put it in which they didn't have to.

Councilman Kim said they were going to do that.

Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min meant. Councilman Min clarified that he meant the meetings they were going to have to review.

Mayor Kim said they should have done that before because the majority of the votes were not there but next year.

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Councilwoman Lee said she would like to add one more thing and stated that as a matter of respect for the people that were working for the borough, they needed to be respectful to the people already in the positions as the positions were not vacant. To advertise for positions that were already filled by real people she would think that it was disrespectful.

Mayor Kim said that he agreed.

Councilman Kim said he agreed and said that if they terminated anybody, even before that they should always have some kind of job performance evaluation first and then if that continued and then whoever was doing the performance review informed the mayor then the mayor could inform the rest of the council and then when the mayor found out it was not proper, then it should not go on like that. Councilman Kim said that the mayor was suggesting to every council that they were going to put advertisements and then due to the reason for that, then they could do the right process of doing it. Councilman Kim said that even though it was a simple advertisement, they should do it the step by step way by having the performance review first and then based on that, if it was needed to have an advertisement, have that done. Councilman Kim said that without that evaluation, it would be very disrespectful to anybody working for the borough.

Mayor Kim said he put it in because of the request of Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon but they had the opportunity to table it as well as passing it. Mayor Kim said it was a choice of the council members. Mayor Kim asked the council members if they should read it off or if they wanted to table it until December or even January after they went through the evaluations. Mayor Kim said he planned to have an executive meeting with the two positions as well as among others so they would get an opportunity to sit down and evaluate what their progress was of the year. Mayor Kim said if they made a motion to go with it, they were going to vote on it and if they were going to make a motion to table this they were going to vote on that. Mayor Kim said he could not make a motion.

Councilman Min made a motion to move forward.

Mayor Kim asked for a second.

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

Councilman Kim	No. Councilman Kim said there was a due process and that they should do it the right way.
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No
Councilman Vietri	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Scott Krumholz stated that it failed to pass.

Mayor Kim said it had not been passed and was rejected so Resolution 2025-332 did not pass.

**RESOLUTION 2025-333      Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for a Police Director**

Mayor Kim said it was the same situation and said that Councilwoman Lee made a very good point that they had employees working still and Mayor Kim stated he firmly believed they did not have to do this. Mayor Kim asked if there was a motion on the table to vote on this resolution.

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

Councilman Kim	No for the same reason as Resolution 2025-332
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No for the same reason as Resolution 2025-332
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Sophia Jang stated it was three to three and Mayor Kim stated he voted no as he did not want any future litigating issues.

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Mayor Kim stated that both Resolution 2025-332 and 2025-333 were struck out from off consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>RESOLUTION 2025-296</b>	<b>Claims</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-297</b>	<b>Establishing Storm Recovery Reserve</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-298</b>	<b>Approving Memorandum of Agreement with NJHOMES</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-299</b>	<b>Authorizing Salary Increases for Municipal Employee</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-300</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025- 15 of Borough Attorney, Ruderman &amp; Roth</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-301</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-21 of Borough Planner, Kauker &amp; Kauker LLC</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-302</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-27 of Borough Special Counsel, McManimon, Scotland &amp; Bauman</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-303</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-17 of Bond Counsel, McManimon, Scotland &amp; Bauman</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-304</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-28 of Borough Tax Appeal Attorney, Jalloh &amp; Jalloh</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-305</b>	<b>Amending Resolution 2025-23 of Alternate Municipal Prosecutor, Brian K. LaRoche</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-306</b>	<b>Authorizing Membership in the South Bergen JIF</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-307</b>	<b>Authorizing Payment for Central Blvd Improvement (Re: DLS Contracting Inc)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-308</b>	<b>Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Bergen to Provide With Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention Program Conduct Activities</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-309</b>	<b>Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Bergen to Receive Grants</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-310</b>	<b>Referring a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amending to the Planning Board for Review And Report Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40:55D-26</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-311</b>	<b>Authorizing Advertise for New Pool Filtrations System</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-312</b>	<b>Rejecting Bids for the Columbus Park Dog Park and Authorizing the Borough Clerk To Re-Advertise for Bids</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-313</b>	<b>Authorizing Lease with Bergen Energy</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-314</b>	<b>Authorizing a Share Service Agreement with Bergen County for Emergency and Non-Emergency Equipment</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-315</b>	<b>Creating an Affordable Housing Committee</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-316</b>	<b>Authorizing Advertise for RFQ</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-317</b>	<b>Authorization of Refund for Duplicate Tax Payment in the Amount of \$4,278.29 (Re: 300 A 7<sup>th</sup> Street)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-318</b>	<b>Authorization of Refund for Tax Payment in the Amount of \$971.15 to S. Park (Re: 344 Northwood Way)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-319</b>	<b>Acceptance of Resignation (Re: A. Albanese) and Appointing New Library Member (Re: A. Monteleone)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-320</b>	<b>Authorizing Refund of Residential Parking Permit (Re: H. Lee)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-321</b>	<b>Authorizing Refund of Residential Parking Permit (Re: E. Ko)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-322</b>	<b>Acceptance of Resignation (Re: A. Gonzalez)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-323</b>	<b>Hiring of Full-Time Acting Code Enforcement Officer (Re: P. Kim)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-324</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 311, Lot 1)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-325</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 221, Lot 11)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-326</b>	<b>Approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal (Re: Block 225, Lot 2 &amp; Lot 3)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-327</b>	<b>Authorization of Raffle License (Re: St. Michael Church)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-328</b>	<b>Authorization of Bingo License (Re: St. Michael Church)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-329</b>	<b>Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park / Fort Lee Elks, RL#679)</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-330</b>	<b>Approving Fifth Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Fan Associates</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-331</b>	<b>Approving Fifth Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Leem's Corporation</b>
<b>RESOLUTION 2025-299</b>	<b>Authorizing Salary Increases for Municipal Employee</b>

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she would like to make a motion for Resolution 2025-299 to move to off consent.

Mayor Kim asked for a second.

Councilman Min seconded.

Mayor Kim asked for a roll call on moving it from consent to off consent. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	No
Councilwoman Lee	No
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	No
Councilman Vietri	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Sophia Jang said it was tied so the mayor would have to vote.

Mayor Kim voted no so they could keep it as consent agenda. Mayor Kim said to announce the consent agenda. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions besides 2025-299.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she had a question about 2025-299. Mayor Kim asked what the big difference was between talking about a consent agenda if they were not going to be rejected to off consent.

Scott Krumholz said people could comment on it and vote.

Allan Roth said that if a council person was going to talk about something off consent, consent agenda in and of itself were typical administrative resolutions that could be passed in one vote. Allan Roth said that if there were going to be comments on consent, it should be moved off consent which should have been done as a courtesy of what they called a friendly amendment. Allan Roth said that if Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to talk about something, it should be easily taken off and there would not need to be a second vote so they could take it off consent, talk about it, then vote on the consent agenda and then vote on that one that was removed.

Mayor Kim said it did not pass. Allan Roth asked what did not pass.

Scott Krumholz stated that there was a motion to move that resolution from consent to off consent and the council voted against it.

Mayor Kim said his problem was that consent agenda was usually not for discussion.

Allan Roth said that was the role of the council and if it was voted to stay on consent, it stayed on consent and there would be no discussion. Allan Roth stated that then Councilwoman Won-Yoon would have to vote yay or nay on that particular resolution.

Councilman Kim said that Councilwoman Won-Yoon could say yes or no with an explanation.

Mayor Kim said of course.

Allan Roth said that it meant there would be no debate on the subject.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more consent agenda that council members wanted to move to off consent agenda to discuss about it. Mayor Kim said that if there were no more questions about off consent agenda and that it was the purpose of the consent agenda.

Allan Roth said that was correct.

Mayor Kim said it was to vote yes or no and they could take out certain things such as saying yes for anything except 2025-299 as Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted.

Allan Roth said that was correct.

Mayor Kim added that Councilwoman Won-Yoon could not open it up to talk about it because it was not off consent.

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Allan Roth stated that she could comment but could not debate. Mayor Kim said that would be on the vote. Allan Roth confirmed it would be for the vote.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she could make a comment. Mayor Kim replied please.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said 2025-299 was about salary increase. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that it was about a salary increase of three employees.

Mayor Kim asked why she was commenting then. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she was trying to make her comment.

Mayor Kim said she was going to vote then make the comment and that they were currently in a stage of motions and not off consent. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions about consent agenda they wanted to move to off consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION 2025-329      Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park / Fort Lee Elks, RL#679)**

Mayor Kim said that for Resolution 2025-329, he was making a recommendation to be struck out because the authorization for raffle license for Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks Club was not completed so they should take that out. Mayor Kim said that 329 was struck out because not enough information was given. Mayor Kim said if there were no more questions about the consent agenda to be moved to off consent and debated, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass the consent agenda 2025-296 to 2025-331 excluding Resolution 2025-329 because they did not provide proper documentation.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Kim	Yes (Recuse 2025-331)
Councilwoman Lee	Yes (No for 2025-324, 2025-325, 2025-326)

Mayor Kim told Scott Krumholz that he was to explain to the people and to the council members the significance of approving the status versus denying it and bringing it to the court.

Scott Krumholz said they met in executive session the previous week and they heard from the attorney regarding the specifics of the three appeals represented with the settlement agreements for resolutions 2025-324, 2025-325, and 2025-326. Scott Krumholz said that what they were presented with was obviously the payment of taxes going back many years which could all be subjected to five percent interest from 2008 so if they were to proceed and not settle the case, there would be a trial and they would then be required to hire an appraiser for every single year which would be very costly. Scott Krumholz added that if at the end of the day, the assessment was changed in any way, any tax that would be due going back to 2008 would be hit with a five percent interest rate compounded over all those years. Scott Krumholz said that in essence, the decision to settle was a balance of whether the current valuation in the settlement and the difference in the amount that would be collected under that new assessment and weighed that in terms of the cost to the borough having to go through a trial. Scott Krumholz said that it was recommended for a number of reasons including the merits of the underlying lawsuit questioning the evaluation on the commercial properties. Scott Krumholz said that more specifics would require another executive session and the recommendation from the outside tax council was that these were approved.

Mayor Kim said that in a nutshell, it costed more time and money to go all the way to the end. Mayor Kim said that the council members would like to know if the evaluations were surely correct.

Scott Krumholz said that the previous executive session was not only with the tax appeal attorney but also the tax assessor for Palisades Park who did confirm that the amounts that were being settled for are reasonable and within the realm of acceptable valuations.

Mayor Kim said that if they went through it, and it was the right of governing body, if they did not pass it, they would end up in court, paying more legal fees but at the end, the judge would award not 5 percent since 2008 and all the charges for the legal representation the town would have to pay. Mayor Kim said he was there with the counselor and the special attorneys and they negotiated a deal. Mayor Kim asked if they could talk about that.

Scott Krumholz said he did not want to get into the details.

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Mayor Kim said they got a real good deal and asked why they could not tell the public about what the deal was.

Scott Krumholz asked if they wanted to go into executive session as he would be more comfortable as he did not know what the Mayor was exactly going to say. Scott Krumholz asked Mayor Kim to whisper in his ear what Mayor Kim was going to say. Scott Krumholz said that was okay and said that part of the settlement involved a substantially lower interest rate that would not start until the actual settlement agreement was signed which was five percent from 2008 to around three percent starting with the date they started the settlement agreement.

Mayor Kim said they made a deal with the representing attorney to say they were not going to be paying a lump sum but pay 50 percent.

Roberta Stern clarified that it would be 25, 50, then 25.

Mayor Kim repeated what Roberta Stern said, stating that it was so they could divvy up the cost so it did not hurt the budget too much. Mayor Kim said that it was a great deal and if the council decided to do that, they were going to drop everything and they would go to court, with the professional saying it was not advisable as they were going to lose and pay more money. Mayor Kim said that before they voted, he wanted them to know and apologized to Councilwoman Lee. Mayor Kim asked to please do it again and said if Councilwoman Lee really wanted to do it, that Scott Krumholz should have let everybody know. Mayor Kim asked again to Sophia Jang to call Councilwoman Lee about her consent agenda.

Councilwoman Lee said that the reason she was voting no was that she could not feel that the valuations did not comport with market rates, and she did feel that she needed to take more time to get comfortable that the valuations were on par with market rates. Councilwoman Lee said her concern was that once it was settled, it would set a precedent for potentially other unhappy property owners. Councilwoman Lee said she wanted to be careful on what they settled on although it went back years from now. Councilwoman Lee said that unless they were open to take it out and table it, she was voting no.

Mayor Kim asked if they were able to table it or if time was of the essence.

Scott Krumholz said he did not know the answer to that because he was not involved in the lawsuits and did know that the tax appeal attorney was asking for it to be approved now so he could get back to the judge and they could put these things through. Scott Krumholz said he did not know what the effects would be if they did not pass it and they kicked the can down another month.

Councilwoman Lee said it had been opened for years.

Scott Krumholz said that when cases were this old and the judge were taking the cases under their wings and were trying to get them through, if the attorney from court reported back that it was on the council agenda and the council decided to push it or anything but approve the settlements, the judge had the jurisdiction and the ability to say off the table and they were going to try things and tell them to be there tomorrow. Scott Krumholz said that if they did not pass the settlements that night, they could be under an order to start trial in a reasonable manner.

Councilwoman Lee asked to make a motion to go into an executive session as she wanted to raise what her concerns were.

Mayor Kim said it was respectable and asked for a second.

Councilman Shin seconded. Mayor Kim stated they would be moving into an executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Following the executive session, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the executive session and to open back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Mayor Kim asked Sophia Jang to start the consent agenda again.

Councilman Kim: Yes (Recuse 2025-331)  
Councilwoman Lee: Yes  
Councilman Min: Yes (No for 2025-299, 2025-310, 2025-311, 2025-315, 2025-330,  
2025-331 & Abstain 2025-319 and 2025-323)

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Councilman Shin: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes (No 2025-300, 2025-301, 2025-302, 2025-303, 2025-304, 2025-305, 2025-315, and 2025-323)  
Councilwoman Won-Yoon: Yes (No 2025-299 because the salary had been increased the previous May and three employee additional salary increases did not seem to be fair to others. Abstain 2025-310 2025-315, 2025-330, 2025- 331. Recuse 2025-319 and 2025-323 because of a conflict.)

Mayor Kim asked what the tallies were and if there were any split votes.

Scott Krumholz said that the closest was 2025-315. Scott Krumholz stated that for 2025-315 he had two no and one abstain, so it depended on what the rest of the council did. Scott Krumholz asked how many people have not voted yet and stated they should finish the vote.

Mayor Kim said they did finish the vote.

Scott Krumholz apologized and said he thought there were still a few votes.

Mayor Kim asked for the tally of 2025-315.

Sophia Jang said that for 2025-315 there were two abstains and one no.

Mayor Kim asked for the rest of the votes.

Sophia Jang said that the rest of the votes were yes.

Mayor Kim said that passed.

Sophia Jang stated that the other one was 2025-323 which had two recuse, one no, and three yes.

Mayor Kim said that passed as well.

Scott Krumholz confirmed the statements.

Sophia Jang said that everything was done.

Mayor Kim stated that everything passed. Mayor Kim added that he wanted to take a moment for Roberta Stern to explain resolution 2025-299. Mayor Kim said that there was specific reasons Roberta Stern decided they deserved a raise and stated that he was there as well.

Scott Krumholz said that when Roberta Stern was explaining it, because it dealt with salary and employee issues, it was important not to mention the employees or the salaries.

Roberta Stern said it was a decision that was made to make the adjustments and the particular salaries that were brought at 2025-299 with the advice of the CFO who acknowledged the fact that the increases were within the salary range for those people and therefore they didn't need to go further. Roberta Stern said that within a discussion with the borough attorney, two of them had disagreed and as they explained to Councilwoman Won-Yoon at another meeting they had, therefore they did the resolution just to close the gap.

Mayor Kim said that Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she felt it was unfair that certain people were getting a raise while certain people were not. Mayor Kim added that Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that they recently got an increase in salary these people. Mayor Kim asked if that was correct.

Roberta Stern stated that everybody got three percent back when except one person. Roberta Stern said that person got nothing and this was an adjustment because of certain circumstances involving the work that had to be done and that person was getting the work done because there was nobody else present who was doing what that person was doing.

Mayor Kim said that the person was doing that work for free for many years and with that work generated revenue and money for the borough. Mayor Kim said if that person decided not to do it, they did not have to do it because it was not under their roles and responsibilities. Mayor Kim repeated that everything was passed. Mayor Kim stated to move to the Council Reports.

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**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported usually the library board meeting occurred at the second Thursday at 6:00PM every month but for November and December, it would be the third Thursday because some of the members had a conflict. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it would be November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

Mayor Kim said to reiterate that they passed a resolution, and Alice Albanese had been working in the library for many years and decided that it was time she retired. Mayor Kim said that they appreciated her services for many years and in return, through the approval and support from the governing body, Alex Monteleone would take her place and asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to let the board know who the new board member was and asked to invite him or her to the board. Mayor Kim said he would too.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she would let administrative staff for the board to make sure the invite for that meeting would go to Alex Monteleone.

Councilman Vietri stated he did not have anything to report.

Councilman Kim said that on October 30, they were going to have a comfort woman memorial ceremony at 12:15PM. Councilman Kim added that on November 8<sup>th</sup> they were trying to get the health fair, but they were still waiting for a yes from the county and it was taking a while to get a yes.

Mayor Kim asked who they would have to contact.

Councilman Kim said he did not know who Health Official Branka Lulic was contacting but thought she was contacting the senior citizen center.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern what she knew about it.

Roberta Stern asked if Councilman Kim would mind giving a call to her the next day to see what was missing and she would make some phone calls.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anything else and Councilman Kim said no.

Councilman Min reported that it was a memorable day for the police department as they just got approved by the accreditation for the police department. Councilman Min said that the director and the chief would explain on their report as well. Councilman Min said that it was good news.

Mayor Kim stated that it was very good news and told Councilman Min and Councilman Shin that they did a great job reforming the police station. Mayor Kim said they had two meetings and they were great. Mayor Kim said that the assessors and the evaluators said they should have a problem in the board meeting. Mayor Kim said it was very significant and asked Councilman Min to explain to the public why it was significant that the accreditation needed.

Councilman Min said that the accreditation was a book of standards so it would help them to not cause many liability issues because they had the standard to follow. Councilman Min said those were the basics of the accreditation and that it was going to help them with what to look for if there were any problems they could go back to the standard, and it was the way they could perform and function. Councilman Min just said to consider it as a book of standards.

Councilman Kim stated that he had joined the meeting for accreditation and he had asked what kind of benefit as a taxpayer he would get if the police department was accredited and what was said was that the insurance would go down because of accreditation so that would be a visible sign of getting the benefits. Councilman Kim said that there were many other factors that they were getting benefits such as lawyers for when the town would be getting sued, would have a second door because of the value of the accreditation. Councilman Kim said that out of 70 municipalities 25 were accredited and stated that was how hard it was and that they would be the 26<sup>th</sup> if everything was approved. Councilman Kim said they had tried many times, but they were very persistent, and they finally did it. Councilman Kim said they should really commend that they were able to pull through.

Councilman Min said that one scenario was if one of the officers wanted to file a lawsuit against the police department and the borough, whoever the attorney that represented the case would have a second thought as they would ask the question if the police department was accredited or not and that would give the attorney a second thought if they would take the case or not. Councilman Min said that was going to say that the police department had followed the proper procedure on their standards. Councilman Min

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said that there was no way they were going to get a win in the case. Councilman Min said that it would save them in the future.

Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Shin would like to add anything.

Councilman Shin said that it was okay.

Mayor Kim added that it also created a better morale. Mayor Kim said that the hardworking police officers liked what was happening with the accreditation and they liked standardization. Mayor Kim said that he did not like the word standardization because like Councilman Kim said, there was less than 30 percent who had been accredited. Mayor Kim said that it was standard or a baseline but was actually an excel and doing much more than a baseline. Mayor Kim said it was very significant for them because it brought a higher standard. Mayor Kim said they would also be always prone to get sued but it would be one less chip in the armor that the attorney would take. Mayor Kim said that there were many benefits and stated that they agreed they should thank the director, the chief, and the captain that had been working for a long time.

Councilman Shin reported that in October, the DPW did around 446 cases including 157 metal pickups, 87 electric pickups, and 34 dumpster pickups. Councilman Shin said they started to patch all the potholes to prepare for the winter and they started to do some temporary hot patch so it would be much better. Councilman Shin stated that if they saw any potholes to call the DPW. Councilman Shin that in the recreation department, they had a very beautiful party the previous weekend called Trunk and Treat and had too many to count. Councilman Shin said that not only the kids, but the parents got together, and it even included other towns. Councilman Shin said the parents knew it would be good and instead of visiting all the individual houses, all the kids got together and enjoyed other events all together.

Mayor Kim agreed and said he was very proud of recreation. Mayor Kim said it created a safer environment and more open space for other participants to join. Mayor Kim said that other towns such as Cliffside Park, Leonia, and even Fort Lee came by to enjoy the festivities. Mayor Kim said he was worried about the effect of the surrounding business on a Saturday when they had to close Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim said that when he was walking around, at the end of the day, the place was crowded, and it created more business as well. Mayor Kim said that it brought more unity and more opportunities to do Trunk or Treat. Mayor Kim said he believed the police department did their own Trunk or Treat as well and it was very good as well.

Councilwoman Lee stated she had nothing to report.

Mayor Kim said that they had the first community clean up of Broad Avenue and they picked up 367 pounds of garbage, but it was a coordination between the community members, council members and also the students. Mayor Kim said they did a contest of which group would pick up the most garbage and stated that 367 pounds was a lot. Mayor Kim said they noticed that there was less garbage because of the more garbage containers on Broad Avenue. Mayor Kim said he appreciated the police community and the students that were doing that. Mayor Kim added that the police community, himself, the director, the chief, the captain and also the traffic engineer were trying to see if they could create speed humps where all the prone areas of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street getting off Route off and on Route 46. Mayor Kim said that was where the most accidents were and everybody agreed that those were the problems they had to do something about. Mayor Kim said that every single time there was a car accident, they put LED stop signs and for some reason, people would disregard that too. Mayor Kim said that the next step was to figure out proper procedures with the DOT, the department of transportation, to see what the proper method and procedure was to put in speed humps on the prone areas on Route 46, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street coming in and coming out. Mayor Kim said that was going to make a difference in the accidents. Mayor Kim said that it was very unfortunate news but their dear friend and employee for many years, Antoinette Rotundo, dear sister of former Mayor Jimmy Rotundo, passed away. Mayor Kim said that was why they had the bunts and were hoping to get notification from Jimmy Rotundo to see when the wake or the funeral would be and hoped everyone would participate and join. Mayor Kim said it was very sad news and she had provided a lot for the community. Mayor Kim said they wished her soul would be kept with the Lord. Mayor Kim asked for the Borough Administrator Report.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Scott Krumholz had no report.

Allan Roth reported that they were going to be sitting down with the committee to start reviewing contracts for negotiations.

**BA REPORT:**

Roberta Stern stated she had a couple updates on ongoing projects in town. Roberta Stern said that there was a resolution tonight to pay the vendor and contractor that paved Central Boulevard which was done a couple months ago. Roberta Stern said it went back to 2024 but was just paid. Roberta Stern added that they had to get their new engineer involved because there were issues with some of the details from a previous year. Roberta Stern said they were paying the contractor for his work and DOT still had an inspection to make but they did not expect any issues. Roberta Stern said that the 1.4 million dollars grant for the Broad Avenue beautification and pedestrian improvement that was going to be lost but was now in place. Roberta Stern said that the design was in two different parts. Roberta Stern stated that the DOT required a design part which they had done with Pennoni and that everybody used to send everything off to the PMR system, but that particular grant had to be a hard copy delivered to the DOT in Newark. Roberta Stern said that finally took place earlier in the month.

Mayor Kim asked if they were in the process of getting it.

Roberta Stern said that they were working and now they had the time, which could take a few months, the DOT looked at the design, and once it was approved, the DOT would make recommendations for changes.

Mayor Kim said that most of it had to do with signalization, pedestrian signs, bumping out certain parts of Broad Avenue where they could afford to lose the space which they had seen in a lot of other towns.

Roberta Stern said that when they did finally hear from DOT in a couple months, because it took at least two or three months, then they would be going out to bid because a separate engineer would have to do the construction. Roberta Stern stated that it was one of those grants where they could not do the whole thing. Roberta Stern said that Pennoni at some point would redo their estimate because it included construction which they would not be doing. Roberta Stern said they had the plans and they could not lose it.

Mayor Kim said they could, and they assumed it could break ground early spring just like the last one as well.

Roberta Stern said that one in temple, they put out the bid, and the packages came back. Roberta Stern stated that it was awarded to DNL construction. Roberta Stern said that there were some small issues on the extent of the work that clarified and that work would be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. Roberta Stern stated that Lawn and Temple were two of the streets that had the worst bumps and potholes. Roberta Stern said that one of the other resolutions that they had tonight were the MOU with Bergen County. Roberta Stern said that they were now probably one of the only towns that didn't have that arrangement with them.

Mayor Kim said it was the shared service agreement.

Roberta Stern said that they had a hot box in case they needed that going forward and they would get it 2 days at a time. Roberta Stern said that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Highland had a reschedule for the pre-construction meeting which was coming up the upcoming Thursday. Roberta Stern said those streets were a lot of storm and water improvements.

Mayor Kim asked to explain why they had to do this.

Roberta Stern said that on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> there were very few storms drains on the lower side coming downhill and the water would run off into peoples houses. Roberta Stern said they had numerous complaints and visited those homes with the engineer. Roberta Stern said that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> included a lot of storm water drainage. Roberta Stern said that work was done first at one point which did not solve the problem and there was going to be additional work. Roberta Stern said that for the rest of the paving, she spoke with a contractor the previous week and they hoped to get at least the storm work done before the end of the year and possibly the paving in the spring. Roberta Stern said they also had to pass the resolution for another Broad Avenue grant that had dropped dead in October, and nothing had been done but they got it in time.

Mayor Kim said that there was one about beautification.

Roberta Stern said for that one, because they got an extension with the off consent in the last month, it would be on the November meeting. Roberta Stern said that the previous one on Broad, the one which was Washington to Edsall which was a \$249,000 grant was going to be for some sidewalks, trees, benches, etc. Roberta Stern said that because it was a smaller project, they did not get that much money

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but the design of that would be compatible with the other projects. Roberta Stern said that 12 Bellview was finally straightened out and the work would be starting the upcoming Wednesday. Roberta Stern said they had monitoring wells because it was garage and it had been going on for many years. Roberta Stern said that the environmental company that was staying on top of it came by and used spray paint to outline each of the locations and there were two of them within the side of it but they were notified and it would not be damaged. Roberta Stern added that the grading had to be brought up to match them.

Mayor Kim said that to make sure the trees behind. Roberta Stern said yes but added that it wasn't part of their work and was not in it.

Mayor Kim said they had to address the trees. Roberta Stern said that in order for that to be productive. Mayor Kim said that it affected the neighboring residents as well.

Roberta Stern said they would clean up everything. Roberta Stern said that Lincoln Street was a small street and a community development grant they had gotten. Roberta Stern said they asked why they did that and found out that with community development money, the streets that the approved for paving had to fall within the low-income areas. Roberta Stern stated that there was a map every year that showed where they would pay for certain things. Roberta Stern said when it was originally done, it was the other part of Lincoln. Roberta Stern said she had spoken to community development and it moved and they had to do a couple of new resolutions and agreements with the county. Roberta Stern added that Pennoni was preparing the payment application for that. Mayor Kim asked if it was for the repaving's. Roberta Stern said yes.

Mayor Kim asked about the Edsall project starting from the church all the way down to commercial.

Roberta Stern said that was a grant they were waiting for and that they would not be doing anything for that until around November but unfortunately because the government was on a shutdown, they may not hear about the money until the next year. Roberta Stern said that that one and 12<sup>th</sup> street were all part of 2 grants and they would not be hearing about it.

Mayor Kim said that 12<sup>th</sup> street would be the trio.

Roberta Stern said that they had outstanding fiscal year 19, 20, and 21 total of \$561,000 worth of grants that paperwork was never submitted to get the money. Roberta Stern said that between the CFO and the grant consultant they were trying to find out from the DOT if they got any of that money because they put together all the packets that were required, all the purchase order copies of the checks that the vendors have been paid so hopefully some of the grants would give up to 75 percent up front but she had not been able to get to the bottom of it. Roberta Stern said they would either have \$561,000 outstanding or they would have a percentage of that outstanding that they were trying to get back. Roberta Stern stated that fiscal year 24 was the one they talked about and that was pretty much it.

Mayor Kim asked that concerning the grants compared with last year, how much grants did they receive. Mayor Kim said that in his calculations they received.

Roberta Stern said they bonded 1.3 million for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Highland because they did not get any grant money for that and those were so important. Mayor Kim said they had no choice and that some of them did not apply. Roberta Stern said that the rest was grant money.

Mayor Kim said that before Roberta Stern got in, they did not have that much grant money coming in. Mayor Kim said that more grant money meant less taxpayers spending which was a very good thing and appreciated that. Mayor Kim asked how they were doing with the kiosks for the parking lots.

Roberta Stern said that on the previous Friday after they approved at the last meeting's off consent that agreement with PNC Bank, the T2 which was the heart of the mother company of all internet had to run a test with them and barcodes had been sent to them. Roberta Stern said the test was being done and thought that they would let her know by the end of the day but did not hear from him. Roberta Stern said that all things being equal, everything goes right, the week of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, they would start putting in the new parking meters.

Mayor Kim said that in the meantime, the police officers knew that they would not give citations on meters that were not really functional. Roberta Stern said only very few of them.

Mayor Kim said they did care about what the constituents felt about that so they were trying to help them out as well.

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Roberta Stern stated that the time and attendance they had been working on had taken a lot of time because it was very detailed oriented.

Mayor Kim asked to reiterate what the time and attendance meant. Roberta Stern said they would now have facial recognition clocks.

Mayor Kim said they were going to create an online self-registered HR system where the employees need to check in and check out when they leave. Mayor Kim stated it would be automatic as the current system had been a little bit outdated and were following suit to come with the modern times and it would be definitely helpful in managing employees to make sure that they were on time and leave on time.

Roberta Stern said that it was time-consuming because like anything else with computers it was whatever they put in they would get out and they had another meeting the next day on updating vacation and sick time.

Mayor Kim asked what Roberta Stern's comfortable starting to install date.

Roberta Stern said to have it up and running it would probably be the second week in November. Roberta Stern stated they had the meeting the next day and there was another bunch of information requesting. Roberta Stern said she had to talk about health benefits.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to talk about that as they had a big problem in not just the borough but also the whole state of New Jersey. Roberta Stern said that the state had announced months ago that they were expecting an increase of 37 percent. Mayor Kim said that it went up 22 percent the previous year. Roberta Stern stated that it was an additional 37 percent. Mayor Kim said it was for all municipalities of New Jersey that were in that joint health benefit. Roberta Stern said that there were some that were not in it and that they had gotten out and gone either direct with the company. Roberta Stern said they were providing the information about the loss experience which was workers comp and other things. Roberta Stern said that unfortunate people who had illnesses and all of that and included both our current employees and retirees. Roberta Stern stated with that information, they had their risk manager going out to companies individually which was either Aetna and Horizon, two of the health insurance funds which was similar to the joint insurance fund that they use for the property casualty, and there was another system called New Jersey Promise which one of the neighboring towns might have gone with and they came up with a savings of maybe 20 something percent instead of 37 but they were not sure they were going with it. Roberta Stern said that one of the people they had met with already turned them down because of the loss ratio. Roberta Stern said she was hoping that the other company was going out to a broader audience and hopefully something would come up that was better than 37 percent.

Mayor Kim said it was a very serious issue because it would increase the taxes incredibly. Mayor Kim said that it was not the municipalities fault as it was the state joint fund and that fund was going bankrupt. Mayor Kim said they had to find a remedy and hoped that Roberta Stern would provide the town with better remedy than 37 percent.

Roberta Stern said that almost anything was going to be better than 37 percent. Roberta Stern stated that it was not like going out and finding somebody else to write the home insurance because it was a very small group that could write health benefits.

Mayor Kim said that Roberta Stern was working with the CFO and someone from the JIF and was hoping for good results. Mayor Kim said that if any of the council members wanted to get a copy of Roberta Stern's progress on all the stuff she had not written, to just email her to get a copy.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Director Michael Gardner said that earlier in the month he responded to a motor vehicle accident where a pedestrian was hit and observed TEOs to make sure they were stopping traffic from going into the area and making sure they were following the rules. Michael Gardner said that the pedestrian went to the hospital and was not seriously injured. Michael Gardner stated that the motor vehicle driver was later identified and was issued a number of summonses. Michael Gardner added that he had taken management over the TEOs and that the program was currently being completely revised to improve productivity and accountability. Michael Gardner said they had sat down with each TEO and had them go over the rules and regulations and after they read through them, they had the TEOs sign off on a copy of them. Michael Gardner stated that they were ensuring that uniforms were the same uniforms being worn and the outermost garment displayed the traffic enforcement officer as they had reports from residents that someone was giving a ticket and did not know who they were, so they wanted their visibility to be known. Michael Gardner said that more changes to the program would be forthcoming. Michael Gardner said that the SPOs were being assisted by Captain Rotundo and that they were implementing a field training

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program that they have not had before. Michael Gardner stated that they had a number of SPOs in the academy that were not TEOs ahead of time so they did not know the town. Michael Gardner said that so everybody was on the same page, they were going to get a field training which was going to be at least 4 weeks and maybe up to 6 weeks as they want them to do the job the right way. Michael Gardner added that he wanted to point out that the previous month he introduced the whistleblower program because in law school he was concerned about female students that were leaving that law school at night and walking 4 blocks to Penn Station in Newark. Michael Gardner said they implemented a whistle program where they were provided with whistles so if they were walking to the station and felt threatened or concerned for their safety, they would take the whistle out and blow it. Michael Gardner said that it would either scare the person away or call attention to them for anybody around and if there happened to be a police officer nearby, they would know that somebody was in distress. Michael Gardner said they did not have any concerns at the moment for their safety, but it was just another safety measure he was implementing to look out for the best interest of the seniors. Michael Gardner said that they were going to make the whistles available at the police window so if anybody, even if they were not a senior, would be able to get one.

Mayor Kim said it was not only for the seniors.

Michael Gardner said that it was for anybody. Michael Gardner said that prior to his tenure, he was unaware of any chiefs, directors, consultants, or anybody applying for accreditation and if they did, they failed. Michael Gardner said that he would bring accreditation to Palisades Park and was told it never happened but it just happened. Michael Gardner said they talked to the CFO and was told they did not have the money as it cost \$25,000 to go through the accreditation. Michael Gardner stated he contacted the accreditation company and negotiated from \$25,000 to \$15,000 and then talked to JIF and the risk managers and got them to front the money, so nothing out of pocket from Palisades Park so it did not affect the budget. Michael Gardner stated that when they got fully accredited in March, they would deduct the savings from the town's liability insurance and the savings they had would go to them until they were reimbursed for the \$15,000. Roberta Stern stated that it was \$20,000. Michael Gardner said that the accreditation program was a team effort and would like to thank Chief Beck and the accreditation manager, Captain Rotundo and the rest of the team. Michael Gardner said that everybody bought into it and the main concern now was compliance to keep the accreditation. Michael Gardner said they were going to get accredited.

Councilman Shin said they had two cases of car thieves arrested in October.

Chief Beck stated he would report on that. Chief Beck first thanked Mayor Kim for the kind words for Captain Rotundo's aunt and the police department had been supporting him in the difficult times. Chief Beck said that they were making borough hall safer as right out the doors, there were two Narcan boxes with one at each entrance. Chief Beck explained that Narcan was for when someone was suffering an overdose. Chief Beck said it was a simple nasal applicator that anybody could administer to reverse the effects of the overdose. Chief Beck said they had an open police station where the call box was there. Chief Beck said that if somebody did come in that was experiencing an overdose, they would no longer wait for a police officer to get there and could administer it inside both entrances. Chief Beck added that they had a life VAC which was a life saving device if they were choking as it was a suction that somebody would administer if something was lodged deeper and something the Heimlich Maneuver could not remove. Chief Beck stated that they had them in the police cars as well and were happy to report a non-profit organization donated them. Chief Beck reiterated that it was everywhere and hopefully they would not need to use them, but if they did, they had them now. Chief Beck said that one of the greatest things they got was a sink in the patrol room. Chief Beck stated that prior to getting the sink, the officers would routinely deal with intoxicated parties or the homeless population and when they would have to touch them in rowdy situations without gloves on, there was nowhere to wash their hands other than down in the basement or in the hallway. Chief Beck stated it created a safety issue because the officers had to decide where they would like to wash their hands but could not because they did not want to leave their partner alone or if they were by themselves, they were not going to leave the inmate or somebody in custody unattended. Chief Beck said they brought the concern to Roberta Stern and she got them a sink there. Chief Beck stated that many years ago he got Mercer because they had a shortage on gloves and they were using the same gloves all day and they had a man who was run over and Chief Beck touched a bug bite and it was turned into that. Chief Beck stated that having somewhere to wash their hands was important. Chief Beck stated they had a very active month and that the officers were extremely happy with the community. Chief Beck said that the reform was to be out there, to be open, to be transparent, and to be engaged with the public. Chief Beck said that at the beginning of the month, they held an informative seminar down at the senior citizens building on elder abuse. Chief Beck said it was a serious topic but the seniors were treated to some beautiful music played by Officer Adolfo Rodriguez who played the piano for the seniors. Chief Beck said that on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the officers attended the bonfire for the Palisades Park High School Athletics Program which was a great time for them to interact with the high school population. Chief Beck said that some of the officers who did some juvenile matters were very

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excited. Chief Beck said that he was happy they brought it back because as a student in high school they used to do it for many years. Chief Beck said it was very good for the community building for the students and for everybody in the community. Chief Beck said that on October 10<sup>th</sup> they trained the library staff on safety issues and conducted a safety assessment at the library. Chief Beck said the Officer Bob Lee went over there, provided them with a Narcan box. Chief Beck said they got a good conversation from it.

Mayor Kim said it was very engaged and informative and they provided that if they needed any more services, they would be there for them.

Chief Beck said it would be good if they interacted and knew the library staff so they would be continuing the partnership as they moved along. Chief Beck stated that on October 11<sup>th</sup> they trained the department in defensive tactics at the high school and got to work on some moves. Chief Beck said it was really thanks to Englewood Cliffs Police Chief Will Engelman and Fort Lee Police Chief Matt Hintez who supplied them with the expert trainers to train the officers. Chief Beck stated they now had 2 officers, Officer Loretta and Officer Fernando, who in December, were going to a 2 week program to learn defensive tactics to become an expert. Chief Beck said they did not have that before but they were now going to have it. Chief Beck said that to strengthen what they learned there, they completed a 2 day composite use of force and arrest liability training by the Roselle Group which was held in the court room. Chief Beck said it was aimed at reducing liability when interacting with arrest such as violent suspects or somebody with excited delirium to show some awareness and to teach the officers. Chief Beck stated that it was a very strenuous course and the test was pretty difficult on day 2 but reported that all officers had passed. Chief Beck said that Roselle Group offered to train the officers for free even though it was a private company that came here so it was at no cost to the borough. Chief Beck said they had 3 more in the schedule. Roberta Stern stated that she was wondering because the JIF should be advised of the classes because they would reduce things. Chief Beck said that if they would like to, he could forward it to them. Chief Beck said they had 5 courses in the curriculum that were taking place fall as the training was a big part of the reform to make the officers confident out there in their profession. Chief Beck stated that on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Officer Bob Lee and their special Samuel Kim held another informative seminar on elder abuse and it was to get a different population at the United Healthcare Building on Broad Avenue. Chief Beck said he wanted the seniors in the community to understand that the police department appreciated them and cared about them. Chief Beck said that they did 3 programs in October just for seniors and stated that the police was there for them and they appreciated the seniors being a part of the community and were there to work with them. Chief Beck said that on October 25<sup>th</sup> the officers participated in Trunk or Treat and took one of the police vehicles, decorated it with Halloween stuff and had a ton of candy that the officers gave to all the kids. Chief Beck said congratulations to the recreation department because they did worked as he had never seen so many people on Broad Avenue. Chief Beck said the entire community policing unit went there and the officers got involved. Chief Beck said that there were some noticeable arrests. Chief Beck stated that on October 7<sup>th</sup>, Officers, James Park, Michael McDermott and Adolfo Rodriguez, arrested a 19 year old man from Palisades Park who was burglarizing vehicles or attempting on Temple Terrace. Chief Beck said the man fled before their arrival but the officers were smart enough to get a K9. Chief Beck stated that the K9 of Bergen County Sheriff's Department supplied tracked the guy down and as they were doing the track, they ended up at the 7-Eleven on Route 46 and the man had just shoplifted in there and threatened to harm the clerk. Chief Beck said it went from there to the next spot where they caught the person. Chief Beck said that more importantly, the things that were happening, the police officers were there and were there within minutes, maybe even just a minute. Chief Beck stated that they were very fast because they were out there keeping a good eye on the community. Chief Beck said there was another one on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 AM in the morning. Chief Beck said that Sergeant Sambogna, Officer Steve Kim and Officer Rob Then and Officer Mark Larrea responded to East Palisades Boulevard and Second Street for a suspicious person attempted to break in Vehicles. Chief Beck stated that Sergeant Sambogna located the man, a 37-year-old man from Fairview, arrested him and that man got a bunch of burglary charges and was lodged in the Bergen County Jail. Chief Beck said he did have the pleasure of taking the wonderful residents here on a tour to the headquarters. Chief Beck said the facility was clean, healthy, and very inviting for the officers as the reservations were now completed. Chief Beck said they were very proud to show it off to the community so if anybody else wanted to stop in and take a look, they were more than welcome. Chief Beck stated that the Bergen County Prosecutors Office supersession had been removed a couple weeks ago.

Mayor Kim asked what a supersession was.

Chief Beck said that for a period, the Bergen County Prosecutors Office oversaw the internal affairs function of the Police Department which had been removed, and it was restored back to the police department. Chief Beck said there was a press release as some media had started to pick up on that so they would see the articles that were out there. Chief Beck said it restored confidence in the department to handle its own responsibilities and as chief he could say they were all handled with integrity, fairness and openness. Chief Beck stated that he wanted to congratulate the officers for reaching the milestone on

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accreditation. Chief Beck said that Captain Rotundo was a standout when it came to the paperwork and would not be surprised.

Mayor Kim asked Captain Rotundo to stand up to be recognized.

Chief Beck said he would not be surprised if the accreditation agency sought Captain Rotundo to go on board with them to help them because there were only 9 assessors for the entire state of New Jersey and that was why the appointment was scheduled months in advance. Chief Beck said that the accreditation was a testament to Rotundo for helping out with that and everybody there but it was everybody in the apartment that the congratulations went to. Chief Beck said there were standards that they had to comply with but they had to prove the compliance so if the officers did not act in the capacity of the standards, they could not prove the compliance. Chief Beck said the officers acted in compliance with the standards and were able to demonstrate that and because they were able to demonstrate that, they were operating in compliance in the capacity of the compliances to meet the standards to be accredited. Chief Beck asked if anybody had any questions.

Mayor Kim asked if all the training was a part of accreditation.

Chief Beck said it was all a part of it.

Mayor Kim said the officers went to the high school defense and had never seen the police department officers so studious. Mayor Kim saw them working really hard and could never imagine that happening and gave Chief Beck kudos. Mayor Kim congratulated the police department.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

Mayor Kim stated there was no engineer report.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and open to the public.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to speak up.

Nam Kyung Kim came up and stated she was following up regarding a foreign issue because she had not received any issues so far.

Mayor Kim asked if she had heard anything.

Nam Kyung said she had not heard anything.

Mayor Kim said they were working on it right now and to expect that on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, they talked about how the draining in a pitch. Mayor Kim stated they were creating the drain and the connection to the main line.

Roberta Stern stated that they hope to finish the drainage work before the end of the year but maybe not until the spring.

Nam Kyung asked if they were going to complete the drain by spring.

Mayor Kim said they were hoping to break ground by this year.

Roberta Stern said they were going to know more after the pre-construction meeting. Roberta Stern said she spoke with the contractor last week and asked what the time was going to be. Roberta Stern stated that the contractor said he wanted to get the drainage work done and the storm sewer work done before the end of the year but it may not pave until the spring.

Susan Brauer from 50 Henry Avenue congratulated the police department and gave their condolences to Captain Rotundo. Susan Brauer said that when Gordon Johnson was there, he mentioned 4 streets off Grand Avenue were going to have crosswalks and she missed one. Susan Brauer stated she had Edsall, Henry, Brinkerhoff but did not know the last one.

Roberta Stern stated it was Palisades. Roberta Stern stated that they also asked for Roff but there were some special circumstances at Roff so they were not doing that at the same time as the other 4.

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Susan Brauer stated that it had been going on for a few years, but between Broad Avenue and Grand Avenue, there was no light on either end, or for years it had been used as a shortcut by New Jersey Transit buses when the street was not on their route. Susan Brauer said she had called for years. Susan Brauer added that from about 5 to 8 every night, the buses went down 1 at a time, 3 at a time, and sometimes stopped in the middle of the street and the houses would shake.

Mayor Kim said he had seen it before too.

Susan Brauer stated that when Captain Gasparovich was there, he called New Jersey Transit directly, things had stopped for a while, but it was back and they had a lot more kids playing on the street, a lot of them on bikes and it was dangerous. Susan Brauer said that if there was anything they could do, the buses should not be going up and down that street.

Chief Beck said that they would take care of it and that the director just informed him that the director would call New Jersey Transit the next day and have a conversation with them. Chief Beck said it was against the ordinance for them to be doing that as it was not just New Jersey Transit buses, but it was other buses and what not. Chief Beck asked which days she believed it to happen the most.

Susan Brauer said it was Monday through Friday as it was every day. Susan Brauer added that they had brought it up a long time ago, but they had a lot of kids in the school and in the winter there were a lot of seniors that owned homes and they did not have a service that shoveled for them and they waited till they found the right people to pay to shovel. Susan Brauer asked if it was possible to get a program started where kids could get school credit or some kind of credit to come and shovel. Susan Brauer said she did not expect it for free and they would pay, but it was always good to know someone was going to show up and they would be able to get out.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth if there were any liabilities concerning kids doing social work, community hours, to clean the snow for seniors who needed their service.

Allan Roth said they might be able to work with if the high school had a key club or other social club to do that good Samaritan work so therefore they would probably be outside of any kind of liability. Allan Roth said Susan Brauer could also try to see if the office and the new superintendent might be able to reach out from key club or any other clubs. Allan Roth stated there were many different service oriented groups in a lot of the high schools.

Mayor Kim said he would not mind the service to exist, but he was talking about liability. Mayor Kim said someone had to cover for their liability.

Allan Roth said that there would be something for the good Samaritan Law so they would have to see if there was anything else that would need coverage. Allan Roth stated that if it was through the school program then it could be covered by the student accident fund that schools were required to have but it was something that would have to be worked out in some kind of agreement with the school. Allan Roth stated that the town may not even have to be involved as the school could just set up a program themselves.

Mayor Kim said he believed so too as it was a venue for the school system. Councilwoman Lee said she would send a note to the superintendent and see if there was a way.

Susan Brauer said that if anyone wanted to contact her that they had her name and number.

Mayor Kim said they first had to make sure if there was a way.

Councilman Kim said he had a program called Shovel for Love a long time ago so a church did it but the issue was the same liability issue.

Mayor Kim said they were almost always insured.

Councilman Kim said he was not sure about the American law but if the school did it, the school would have to agree to it unless each house owner wrote a consent that they would not sue the person shoveling because the last person who shoveled the house was responsible for anybody falling on the property. Councilman Kim said the school might agree or not so they would need a clear judgement about who would be liable in case anybody fell. Councilman Kim said that if everybody said that was okay, then it would be the way.

Mayor Kim said they would have to think about before the fact and after the fact.

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Roberta Stern said there was another program she saw that for the safety of the people who wanted their sidewalks shoveled that a list was provided that was done through the local newspaper. Roberta Stern said the kids would contact a thing in the local newspaper available for shoveling and it was very effective because people had their phone number and they knew who they were and they did not have to depend on a stranger to come. Roberta Stern said she could try and put that together to see where she could remember it from.

Mayor Kim said they would do some research, but they would really have to consider the liability first. Susan Brauer said her last comment was that when they were reassessed which her assessment went up considerably and she called the assessment company. Susan Brauer stated that with the company, she went through a lot of things and it was what it was. Susan Brauer said stopped by someone who had been in the town for 50 years and that person said Susan Brauer got a break on her taxes and Susan Brauer asked what they were talking about. Susan Brauer stated that person said that Susan's taxes were reduced because she no longer associated with the former employee Susan Brauer responded that it was "the biggest croc of you know what that I ever heard." Susan Brauer asked where this person heard that and they responded that it was out of Borough Hall. Susan Brauer said she would not mention who told her but stated that if anybody had heard that, that it had to stop as it was despicable and if they knew of anybody saying that, she would like to see them eyeball to eyeball so they could talk to the assessor like she had. Susan Brauer said that it should not be happening in a town this small.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anybody else.

Marsha Schor came up and said that they got a tour of the police department, and it was really lovely. Marsha Schor said a lot of credit went to the chief and all the police department for doing that because the reports of what it looked like before were really bad.

Ernst Beerlie came up and said that Eagle Diner had structures in the back that were put up for code and looked horrible as far as the beautification of Palisades Park. Ernst Beerlie said he did not know if they met fire code or safety codes.

Mayor Kim asked if it was the one that was set up for outside dining.

Ernst Beerlie said yes and stated that it was an eyesore in the back. Ernst Beerlie also mentioned that on the way down to Shoprite on the right-hand side, the town should look into taking that property over that was not completed for years and years and years. Ernst Beerlie said it was the water park.

Mayor Kim said it was also a sore eye.

Ernst Beerlie said they should look to take that over and see if they could do affordable housing there.

Mayor Kim recalled asking the owners when it was going to be completed and the representative said they were going to start building by early next year. Mayor Kim said he would reaffirm and he would give Ernst Beerlie a call.

Roberta Stern said that the construction official had been asking the owners to pay for the plans and there was a quite a bit of money that said they would be coming soon. Roberta Stern said nothing would be reviewed until then.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and come back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the regular meeting.

Councilman Shin motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk