

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

Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
December 15, 2025

Borough of Palisades Park  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
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**MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM WILL CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

**STATEMENT:**

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

1. Notice was filed January 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 LEAD BY COUNCILMAN MIN.**

**ROLL CALL:**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mayor Kim             | Present          |
| Councilman Kim        | Present          |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Present          |
| Councilman Min        | Present          |
| Councilman Shin       | Present          |
| Councilman Vietri     | Absent           |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | Present Via Zoom |

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz     | Present |
| Borough Administrator Roberta Stern | Present |

Mayor Kim stated that before they went on to the adoption of minutes, he wanted to disclose the schedule they were going to have. Mayor Kim said that they needed to go through an executive session concerning personnel and he preferred to do that at the end in order to get the agendas done. Mayor Kim said that because of the Christmas season, their schedule was all messed up. Mayor Kim said that the zoning board was going to have their meeting at 7:00 PM. Mayor Kim said he recommended that they tried to get to done as fast as they could and they could go into the executive session and the zoning board would conduct their business. Mayor Kim said that when they were done with the executive session, he was going to request the zoning board chair to give members five minutes recess so the governing body could come back and close the session. Mayor Kim stated that it was legally okay according to Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Work Session of the Mayor and Council:      | Cancelled         |
| Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:   | November 24, 2025 |
| Executive Session of the Mayor and Council: | November 24, 2025 |

Mayor Kim asked if there were any concerns with the regular session and the executive session minutes. There were no concerns. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass the adoption of minutes.

Councilman Shin motioned and Councilman Kim seconded. The roll call vote was recorded as follows:

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

Mayor Kim said that before they went on to the second reading of ordinances, he decided to table Ordinance 2025-29 because they still had council members that needed more information and time to review. Mayor Kim said on the record he would like to put it on the table. Mayor Kim said that as they all knew, the borough attorney told them that they were in a predicament because of the year end. Mayor Kim said that meant they could table it but the next year, they would have to take it from the first reading because they would have two new council members. Mayor Kim said he just wanted to let the council members know that they would be delayed but he expected that the council members would want to go through with it. Mayor Kim said that in the work session, the governing body requested the professionals put in their input about how they felt about the increase of the max cap recommended by the state police and the New Jersey Towing Association. Mayor Kim said he did not know if the professionals responded in an email. Mayor Kim said he thought Chief Beck responded but Mayor Kim's main concern was making sure that the police department received the same amount of services that they were used to and what they wanted from the two closest towing services. Mayor Kim invited up Police Director Michael Gardner and Chief George Beck and asked them to enlighten the council with any facts. Mayor Kim said that they could do it again in January but if they had any relevant facts about the surrounding areas or if Bergen County was accepting this new cap to say how they felt about it.

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Police Director Gardner stated that the services they were getting from the towing companies was fantastic. Director Gardner said that the one key requirement they wanted when they got a towing company was that they wanted it to be nearby. Director Gardner said that many of the towing instances they had were caused by motor vehicle accidents. Director Gardner said that if the road was shut down, the sooner they had a towing company come, take the car away, and clean the debris, the sooner they could re-open the highway. Director Gardner said that when they started having road detours and cars going through the side streets, they put residents at more harm. Director Gardner said that the service they got from the current towing companies was fantastic. Director Gardner stated that he reached out to many of the area towns and they all went with the state police and rate. Director Gardner said the only one he did not hear back from was Ridgefield where he believed the Chief there made it a little lower, but talking to the personnel there, it appeared that Ridgefield was also leaning towards the state rates because it just seemed easier. Director Gardner said that if they did not give the state rate and they were lower, they had the chance of losing tow companies and they really did not want to do that. Director Gardner said that the prevalent rate out there with probably 90 percent of the towns if not more was the state rate.

Mayor Kim asked Chief Beck to speak.

Chief Beck said he could just tell the mayor what he has heard and could give an example. Chief Beck said that 10 years ago, they had five tow companies. Chief Beck stated that they had a memorandum with the tow companies for the tow companies to respond in 20 minutes. Chief Beck said that at the time, some of the companies were taking up to an hour or 45 minutes and they were not very far away. Chief Beck said that they were just as close as Ridgefield Park or Bogota and they learned from that experience that when they went too far outside of the town, the officer would wait on the side of the road with the people who requested it also waiting too long. Chief Beck said they ended up having this requirement that they had a tow facility and impound lot in town. Chief Beck stated that it solved the boroughs issue of too many delays. Chief Beck said that he was a patrolman there waiting sometimes up to an hour for a tow. Chief Beck said that the tow companies they had at the time did adhere to that 20-minute agreement, so it was working well. Chief Beck said that to do it back the other way would not be a good idea.

Director Gardner said that one other thing that he forgot to mention was that most of the tows were related to motor vehicle accidents and out-of-town vehicles. Director Gardner said that they did not have a big percentage of vehicles being towed that belonged to resident. Director Gardner stated that the fees were going to impact people from out of town and motor vehicle accidents.

Mayor Kim asked how much they were talking about. Mayor Kim asked if it was 90 percent to 10 percent or 80 percent to 20 percent.

Director Gardner stated it was 10 percent residents and that could be high.

Mayor Kim asked if Chief Beck had anything to say to that or if he had a ratio of what was in town. Mayor Kim said that the council did have a good reason of not hurting the residents. Mayor Kim stated that was the reason they were in the debate. Mayor Kim asked for a rough estimate that Chief Beck could guess for the percentage of in town residents being towed versus out-of-town residents being towed.

Councilman Shin tried to say something, but Mayor Kim told Councilman Shin that he was out of order and that Councilman Shin would get his opportunity. Mayor Kim also asked if the percentage of the people getting towed were either accident related or violations such as parking in the yellow.

Chief Beck said that the only time vehicles were towed were never for violations but for parking in the yellow lane. Chief Beck said that if they were going to look at numbers in terms of residents versus non-residents that was where it became a little grey because of the fact that most people got into accidents close to their home. Chief Beck stated that was the statistic that they were more likely to get into an accident closer to their homes because that was where they traveled most. Chief Beck said that if they looked at those numbers of the motor vehicle accidents, and if it was being towed, the insurance was paying for the tow anyway.

Mayor Kim said that if there was a commission, the insurance should cover it.

Chief Beck stated that if it was being towed, it meant that it was disabled and could not be moved. Chief Beck said that the insurance was going to pay that.

Mayor Kim said that the coverage was for the hold fee as well up to a certain number.

Chief Beck said that if the car was disabled, it went to the towing lot. Chief Beck said that the adjuster would go to the tow lot and would handle everything as that was the procedure. Chief Beck said that they had their two vehicles that were totaled moved to the DPW because it was the towns facility and they were not going to keep getting the tow fees. Chief Beck said that normally the procedure was that the adjuster from the insurance company would go to the tow lot and handle everything there with the tow company. Chief Beck stated that if they looked at the number of accidents, they would see a higher number of residents in that mix.

Mayor Kim said that it was covered by insurance.

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Chief Beck stated that there was always a rule to give courtesy to the residents and that they could allow the residents, if they were unregistered and lived three blocks away, the officers more often than not, would follow the residents to their homes and put the vehicle into the driveway.

Mayor Kim said this was to take place of being towed.

Chief Beck said that they were mindful of that and that the officers would do what they could to help the residents. Chief Beck said that it was a common practice. Chief Beck said that the only time they would be towed was if they had no registration or if they had a warrant which would require them to be under arrest. Chief Beck said that other than that, only if it was proven that they did not have insurance. Chief Beck said New Jersey did not report that like the state of New York.

Mayor Kim said that the council members really wanted the ratio. Mayor Kim asked Chief Beck to do his due diligence and get a rough ratio between the two factors of residents and non-residents. Mayor Kim asked if it was going to be in the report on whether it was an accident, if it was going to be covered by insurance, or if it was going to be a violation. Mayor Kim said that they would table it and start all over again. Mayor Kim said that he wanted the council members to get enough information so they would have a sound judgement. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Shin to go ahead and speak.

Councilman Shin asked for what cases besides the traffic accidents could his car be towed.

Chief Beck said that they would start with parking. Chief Beck said that vehicles could be towed if they were parked in a handicapped spot and did not have a handicap. Chief Beck said that it did not happen often and a ticket usually sufficed. Chief Beck stated that it was a heavy fine and the officer would issue a ticket. Chief Beck said that they could also be towed if the vehicle was blocking a fire hydrant. Chief Beck said that was a common towable offense for parking. Chief Beck said that those were the two biggest offenses for being towed for parking. Chief Beck stated that while moving, the most common violations for being towed were either no registration on the vehicles 393-40 or the registration had expired. Chief Beck said that 393-40 was for registration or license being suspended and they could not drive the vehicle. Chief Beck said that the other thing was 6B-2 which was being uninsured. Chief Beck stated that if someone was uninsured, the state of New Jersey did not report whether or not the insurance had lapsed like New York did. Chief Beck stated that it just said whether or not that person had insurance when they went to register the car. Chief Beck said that if they provided an insurance card that was not valid, they would be issued a 393-29 failure to exhibit insurance and not be issued a 6B-2 which was for not having insurance, so it was seldom that they got towed for that. Chief Beck added that if they had a warrant for their arrest and they were taken into custody, the car would be towed. Chief Beck said that if someone was traveling and they had drugs in their car, they would be placed under arrest, and their vehicle would be towed until they were released from custody. Chief Beck stated that if they were driving while intoxicated 394-50, the vehicle would be towed and held for 12 hours by Johns Law which required the police to hold the vehicle for 12 hours before releasing it. Chief Beck said that those were all the offenses.

Councilman Shin gave an example where the traffic in Palisades Park was at 100 percent. Councilman Shin then asked how much percent of the residents drive in the traffic and how much percent of the non-residents were the ones driving in the traffic.

Chief Beck asked Councilman Shin if the councilman was asking about the violations.

Councilman Shin said no and that he was talking about the traffic in Palisades Park.

Director Gardner asked if Councilman Shin meant the traffic itself.

Mayor Kim said that they could not properly assess that.

Councilman Shin said that it was about 60 to 70 percent.

Mayor Kim said he did not know and asked Councilman Shin where he got that information.

Chief Beck stated that he could answer that.

Councilman Shin said that it was a guess.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Shin why he was guessing. Mayor Kim then said that he did not want any guessing as they were talking about facts. Mayor Kim said he was asking the police department to provide the facts to the council members so the council could make a good decision.

Chief Beck said that he did not mind answering what he thought it was.

Councilman Shin said that they were elected in sovereigns to the Palisades Park residents. Councilman Shin said that he was representing the interests of the residents.

Mayor Kim said that it was all of them and not just Councilman Shin.

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Councilman Shin said that whatever the Palisades Park residents' burden was increased, he would like to argue with it and he would like to verify it. Councilman Shin gave the example of the Ridgefield storage charges. Councilman Shin said that Ridgefield charged \$35 a day, Fort Lee charged \$35 a day, Leonia charged \$50 a day, and Palisades Park charged \$35 a day. Councilman Shin said that the borough was now trying to raise the fee to \$50.

Mayor Kim asked if that was true.

Councilman Shin asked why they should increase to the highest amount.

Mayor Kim said that Councilman Shin was talking about the storage fees.

Councilman Shin said he could not understand why.

Mayor Kim said that it was \$35 for Ridgefield, \$35 for Fort Lee and asked if that was correct.

Director Gardner said he did not look into the storage fees.

Mayor Kim said that he did not want to do this when they were running out of time. Mayor Kim said that all he wanted was that they were done with it and they would have to start over. Mayor Kim said he was not too happy about the progression of what was happening. Mayor Kim stated that the council members should get enough information from the professionals. Mayor Kim said the professionals had to write an email stating that they wanted to go with the proposal because it was going to be beneficial or that it was okay. Mayor Kim said that if the service was going to be downgraded, they could figure out another remedy. Mayor Kim said that his concern as a mayor was that the police department received the service they have been used to and service that took only 20 minutes from their vendors. Mayor Kim stated that was all he cared about first. Mayor Kim said that the police department mattered the most because the police had to provide their service. Mayor Kim said that if they could, to write a recommendation why or why not they should follow that and to send it to all the council members. Mayor Kim said he was having a hard time. Mayor Kim stated that they were the professionals.

Director Gardner told the council members that if they had any questions, to email him the questions and he would be more than happy to look into it.

Mayor Kim said that they had next month and had time.

Councilman Shin said that they could verify what he was saying. Councilman Shin said that if they went to ChatGPT they could find that in 10 minutes.

Director Gardner stated that he was not saying he could not but that he would. Director Gardner said that he just did not know the council members would want that information.

Mayor Kim said that they needed facts such as ratios or records that stated that a certain percent was non-residents. Mayor Kim asked for the percentage of collisions or violations they had to tow. Mayor Kim said that the council members would be able to get more sense out of it. Mayor Kim asked if that was okay.

Chief Beck said that he would be able to talk with Councilman Shin.

Mayor Kim said that Councilman Shin was the police department liaison.

Chief Beck said that they could talk about it and have a discussion as he would be more than happy to work to get them the information.

Councilman Shin said he did not know if they could say it professionally or not but to check the ordinance or regulations of the other towns should not be necessarily professional. Councilman Shin said that he could see Ridgefield and Fort Lee's ordinance and Palisades Park's ordinance. Councilman Shin stated that Palisades Park's ordinance said that the residents should pay more storage fees than other towns.

Mayor Kim said that right now they were talking about the damage to their own residents and they wanted to find out how much percentage. Mayor Kim said to go ahead to the second meeting.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING 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 – Re-Intro**

Mayor Kim asked if the council members had questions about the illumination of signs. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and open to the public.

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Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-27.

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

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Councilman Kim        | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Yes     |
| Councilman Min        | Abstain |
| Councilman Shin       | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | No      |

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced that they had three yes votes, one no votes, and one abstention so it had passed.

Mayor Kim thanked the council members. Mayor Kim asked if Sophia Jang was going to read it.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang said no and asked if they would be moving to the next one.

Mayor Kim said that they had to read that the ordinance had been passed.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Ordinance 2025-27 passed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-27:**

Mayor Kim asked the public if they had any questions about Ordinance 2025-27. There were no questions. Mayor Kim asked for motion to close and come back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

**ORDINANCE 2025-28          Bond Ordinance for Authorization to Lincoln Street**

Mayor Kim asked if the council members had any questions or concerns. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and open to the public.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-28. Mayor Kim asked if Lincoln Street was already done.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern said that it was done.

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

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

Sophia Jang stated that they had three yes votes and two no vote and that Ordinance 2025-28 had passed.

Mayor Kim repeated that the ordinance had passed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-28:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to talk about Ordinance 2025-28. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and return to the regular session again.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Kim seconded.

**ORDINANCE 2025-29          An Ordinance Amending Chapter 287 of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park Entitled "Vehicles, Removal and Storage of" to Update Section 11 Entitled "Towing and Storage Fees"**

Mayor Kim said that they would be tabling Ordinance 2025-29.

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Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that they were actually pulling it.

Mayor Kim apologized and corrected himself. Mayor Kim said they were pulling it because they had to start all over with the new council members.

**ORDINANCE 2025-30      An Ordinance Abolishing Articles IX, XX, and XXIII of Chapter 48, Entitled  
"Officers and Employees," of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park**

Mayor Kim asked if the council members had any questions about Ordinance 2025-30. Mayor Kim said that if there were no questions about Ordinance 2025-30 he would like to close and open to the public.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Kim seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-30.

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

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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced that Ordinance 2025-30 was adopted.

Councilman Min asked if it was Ordinance 2025-30 or 2025-31.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that it was Ordinance 2025-30.

Councilman Min said he thought they were on Ordinance 2025-31 and apologized.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang asked Councilman Min if he would like to change his vote.

Councilman Min stated he would like to change his vote.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz if they could just change it.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that they should go back and do another vote since it was a mistake. Scott Krumholz said that they should reopen a vote by starting with a motion and a second.

Mayor Kim asked Borough Clerk Sophia Jang to read the ordinance one more time.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang reread Ordinance 2025-30.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-30.

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

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Councilman Kim        | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Yes     |
| Councilman Min        | Abstain |
| Councilman Shin       | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | Yes     |

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Ordinance 2025-30 had passed with four yes votes and one abstention.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-30:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to talk about Ordinance 2025-30. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close and come back to the regular session.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

**ORDINANCE 2025-31      An Ordinance Amending Chapter 116 of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park  
Entitled “Construction Codes, Uniform” to Modify Section 3 Entitled “Elevator Fees”  
to Update The Fees in According with New Jersey Regulations**

Mayor Kim asked Borough Administrator Roberta Stern to explain why this ordinance came about.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern said that there was an issue with the contract that they had modified and the fees were not current, and the Department of Human Affairs was very adamant that the borough adopted the current approved fees for elevator inspections.

Mayor Kim stated that the fees were higher.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern said that they were all different as some of them were higher and some were the same.

Mayor Kim said that the Department of Human Affairs had a law that the borough had to follow, and Borough Administrator Roberta Stern confirmed. Mayor Kim asked if the council members had any questions. Mayor Kim said that if there were no questions, he would like to close and open to the public. Mayor Kim asked for a motion.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-31.

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

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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Ordinance 2025-31 was adopted.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-31:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to talk about Ordinance 2025-31. Mayor Kim asked to close to the public and return to the regular session. Mayor Kim asked for a motion.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

**ORDINANCE 2025-32      Amending Ordinance 2025-23, Establishment of Salaries for Year 2025 – Re-Intro**

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern told the mayor that it was very simple in order to remove the titles of the people that they did.

Mayor Kim interjected and told Borough Administrator Roberta Stern to use the microphone as the people could not hear.

Borough Administrator stated that the auditor moved in concurrence with removing the titles that they had removed in the previous ordinance. Roberta Stern stated that in 2025-30, they removed the salaries for those same people in the salary ordinance so they were both the same

Mayor Kim stated that the ordinances came together. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions. Mayor Kim said that if there were no questions, he would like a motion to close and open to the public.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim said he would like a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-32.

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

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

Sophia Jang stated that Ordinance 2025-32 was adopted.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2025-32:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to talk about Ordinance 2025-32 before it passed. Mayor Kim said that there was no public participation from the public and asked to close to the public and return to the regular session. Mayor Kim asked for a motion.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Kim seconded.

**ORDINANCE 2024-12                      Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II - Re Adoption**

Mayor Kim said it felt like déjà vu.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern said it was their third time doing this since the beginning of the year.

Mayor Kim said to make it quick.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated that this project was done way before she was at the borough. Roberta Stern stated at the time she was trying to get the money that they were owed if in fact there was any left from that authorization for 200 something thousand from the state of New Jersey. Roberta Stern said that in the meantime there was an issue with the newspaper and a glitch between the borough computers and authorizing the publication and therefore they were redoing it to comply with the bond counsels recommendation that the advertisement be appropriate.

Mayor Kim stated that the bond counsel recommended that they could rectify the situation by redoing the bond ordinance one more time. Mayor Kim asked the council members if they had any questions. Mayor Kim said that if there were no questions he would like to close and open to the public. Mayor Kim asked for a motion.

Councilwoman Lee motioned and Councilman Shin seconded.

Following the public participation portion, Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-12.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded. The roll call was recorded as follows:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Councilman Kim        | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Yes     |
| Councilman Min        | Abstain |
| Councilman Shin       | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | Abstain |

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that there were three yes votes and two abstentions therefore Ordinance 2024-12 was adopted.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz asked Borough Clerk Sophia Jang to excuse him for one second. Scott Krumholz said that for the last bond ordinance, there were two abstentions.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang confirmed that was correct.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that for two abstentions on an ordinance, they did not count towards the quorum so it would be three out of four so it would be a majority.

Mayor Kim said it was not a super majority but just a majority.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated that with the abstentions on an ordinance it would not count towards the quorum.

Mayor Kim stated he understood and thanked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2024-12:**

Mayor Kim told the public that they had three minutes to discuss Ordinance 2024-12. Mayor Kim said if there was no participation he would like to close to the public and come back to the regular session. Mayor Kim asked for a motion.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 2025-352**

**Authorization of Appropriation Transfers**

Mayor Kim said that the Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano was there to explain what was going on with off consent resolution 2025-352.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that the actual transfers would have enough money to fund the shortage in other appropriations. Roy Riggitano said that unfortunately after, they were talking about the emergency appropriation. Roy Riggitano said that there were transfers that would help the council in the following year in the budget process.

Mayor Kim said that for this transfer of funds, the appropriation, it was a normal thing they did from November to December. Mayor Kim stated that they had the budget to pay for this and settle it so the ends would meet. Mayor Kim said that it was a normal procedure. Mayor Kim asked the council members if they had any questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that she had a question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that they had an appropriation transfer at the November meeting. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why this was happening again and if there was any reason.

CFO Roy Riggitano stated that there were bills that came in and they knew they were going to have a deficit. Roy Riggitano said that before they actually established the emergency they were in contact with the borough auditor Garbarini, the tax collector, and the treasurer and went through the budget in its entirety. Roy Riggitano said that for the public, they reconciled a new software system so they had double proof that they would not make the budget this year. Roy Riggitano said that was why they were seeing almost to the last day of the year, how much they would need to get through the budget. Roy Riggitano said that was why they had two. Roy Riggitano said that in all the years he was in the borough, they had two transfers every year.

Mayor Kim asked if the transfers occurred around that time.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it was November and December and that they would see it again in January, February, and March for appropriation reserves.

Mayor Kim said he got it and asked if Councilwoman Won-Yoon was okay.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that she could not hear them very well, but she guessed that what CFO Roy Riggitano was trying to say was that after transferring first still they would have to transfer again later on. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if that was it.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it would happen in January with the budget when it came up with the appropriation reserves.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz told Councilwoman Won-Yoon that CFO Roy Riggitano stated it happened twice every year since Roy Riggitano was employed for the borough.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it was with every town he worked with.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz repeated to Councilwoman Won-Yoon that it was in every town CFO Roy Riggitano worked with usually in November and December. Scott Krumholz said that as they got closer to the end of the year they would begin to see what the numbers actually were and what accounts they were going to need to pull from and what accounts they were going to add to.

Mayor Kim told the council members that they could not spend the money without their authority. Mayor Kim said that he sometimes had amnesia but at the end of the day, checks and balances were approved by the council members, and this was all due.

CFO Roy Riggitano said it was all normal day operations, and it was not anybody's fault.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if she was okay.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she did not remember what they did last time and that was why she was raising the question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if they did not transfer, what would happen.

CFO Roy Riggitano said there would be another diverged charge and would be in violation of law. Roy Riggitano said that it would go down to the division if it did not get approved.

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Mayor Kim said that they had it in the budget. Mayor Kim asked if the council members had any more questions. Mayor Kim said that if there were no more questions to give Councilman Shin two minutes. Mayor Kim said he would go ahead to close and open to the public. Mayor Kim corrected himself because it was off consent agenda and apologized. Mayor Kim said that they would wait until Councilman Shin came back because they needed to vote on the resolution. Mayor Kim asked Chief Beck to find Councilman Shin and stated he might be in the bathroom and said they needed to move forward. While they were waiting, Mayor Kim asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz what would happen if a similar situation occurred.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz asked if Mayor Kim meant if a council member just disappeared in the middle of a meeting.

Mayor Kim confirmed and asked if they could just move forward.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that they needed a quorum.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that they had a quorum and that they could vote and pass it in Councilman Shin's absence. Scott Krumholz stated that Councilman Shin was technically part of the quorum.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang said that Councilman Shin was present so they would have to count his vote.

Mayor Kim argued that Councilman Shin just disappeared.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that legally they could pass it without Councilman Shin if they had enough votes.

Mayor Kim said they would give Councilman Shin some time.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what was going on.

Mayor Kim stated that Councilman Shin just left the building. Mayor Kim said it must have been an emergency because he had never seen this from Councilman Shin. Mayor Kim said he would call Councilman Shin. Mayor Kim called Councilman Shin and confirmed that it was an emergency so Councilman Shin would listen over the phone. Mayor Kim asked for a motion to pass Resolution 2025-352.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilman Shin seconded. The roll call vote was recorded as follows:

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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that Off-Consent Agenda 2025-352 was passed.

Mayor Kim thanked the council and asked to move to the consent agenda.

**DISCUSSION (TO BE CONSENT)**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| RESOLUTION 2025-353 | Claims   |
| RESOLUTION 2025-354 | Authorization of Reorganization Meeting  |
| RESOLUTION 2025-355 | Authorization of Medicare Part B Coverage Reimbursement  |
| RESOLUTION 2025-356 | Authorizing Payment to System One Alarm Services   |
| RESOLUTION 2025-357 | Approving 1 <sup>st</sup> Payment for 12 Bellview (Re: Westcraft Builders Inc)                                     |
| RESOLUTION 2025-358 | Approving CDBG Grant Application for 12 Bellview   |
| RESOLUTION 2025-359 | Approving Seventh Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Fan Associates  |
| RESOLUTION 2025-360 | Approving Seventh Amendment to Settlement Agreement with Leem's Corporation  |
| RESOLUTION 2025-361 | Authorization an Emergency Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48   |
| RESOLUTION 2025-362 | Authorization of Suspend Meter Parking Regulation from Monday, December 15, 2025 through Thursday, January 1, 2026 |

Mayor Kim asked if any of the council members had any questions concerning the consent agenda.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question about Resolution 2025-361.

Mayor Kim reminded everyone that this was consent agenda and they had the work session and had the ability and opportunity as council members to exercise their rights to take the consent to off consent. Mayor Kim said that they were now past that and now they wanted the council members to either say yes or no to the consent agenda. Mayor Kim stated

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that they could say yes to some things and no to others. Mayor Kim said that at that point in time it was too late to take a consent agenda resolution to off consent.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said during or before the work session meeting, if any council did not agree that something was to be on the consent agenda they could have requested it be removed to the off-consent agenda but once they were in the regular meeting the agenda had been set.

Mayor Kim said Resolution 2025-361 should not have been on the consent agenda but should have been on off consent.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that was good because she had a question.

Mayor Kim said the council members were right and that they could make a motion to take it out as it should have been off consent. Mayor Kim told the borough clerk, the borough administrator, and the borough attorney that Resolution 2025-361 should have been off consent. Mayor Kim asked for someone to make a motion.

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

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Councilman Kim        | Yes  |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Yes  |
| Councilman Min        | Yes  |
| Councilman Shin       | Councilman Shin asked what happened and Mayor Kim explained that Resolution 2025-361 was new and was not at the work session, but it was very important. Mayor Kim said that it should have been on the off-consent agenda instead of on consent, so Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon recognized it and wanted to pull it out. Mayor Kim stated he first thought it was the wrong time but realized it was an exception and that the council members were right and it should have been off consent. Mayor Kim stated that they were trying to make this motion to bring consent agenda 2025-361 to off consent so they could discuss it. Councilman Shin voted Yes. |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | Yes  |

Mayor Kim said that they should get back to off-consent agenda but asked if the consent agenda number was okay still.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated she could move the number.

Mayor Kim said to move back to Off-Consent Agenda 2025-361.

Councilman Kim said that they were on the consent agenda so they should finish the consent agenda first then move back to the off-consent agenda.

Mayor Kim said he agreed and thanked Councilman Kim for the recommendation. Mayor Kim said to finish the consent agenda then to move to the off-consent agenda. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions issues or complaints before they did the roll call. Mayor Kim said to do the roll call.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that they first needed a motion.

Mayor Kim apologized.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang said she needed to call consent agenda Resolution 2025-353 through Resolution 2025-362 excluding Resolution 2025-361.

Mayor Kim thanked the borough clerk and asked for a motion.

Councilman Kim motioned and Councilwoman Lee motioned. The roll call vote was recorded as follows:

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

Mayor Kim said that it was great and asked to go back to off consent Resolution 2025-361.

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 2025-361**

**Authorization an Emergency Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48**

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Mayor Kim stated to talk about it openly as the CFO was there. Mayor Kim asked if the council members had any questions.

Councilman Min said he had a couple questions. Councilman Min said that it was an emergency resolution and asked if they were pulling the money from the surplus.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that they exhausted the budget with the transfers.

Councilman Min asked if the CFO knew roughly how much surplus they were at.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that they were approximately at two million without closing the books.

Mayor Kim asked to confirm that they had a surplus of two million

CFO Roy Riggitano confirmed that at the moment, they had roughly two million dollars without closing the books.

Councilman Min repeated that was the current surplus without closing the books. Councilman Min said that if they went back to 2024, if CFO Roy Riggitano could recall what the surplus was then.

CFO Roy Riggitano stated that it was approximately a million dollars more in 2024.

Councilman Min asked the same for 2023.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it was even higher. Roy Riggitano said he did not want to guess but he could get the audit to tell Councilman Min what he needed.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked CFO Roy Riggitano what the judgement category of \$250,000 was.

CFO Roy Riggitano asked for clarification on which category.

Mayor Kim said it was the \$250,000. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon which one she was talking about.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said it just read judgement. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said there were three categories.

Mayor Kim said it was legal expense and judgements.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked again what those judgements were.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that in the budget, they did not know during the year that there would be \$500,000 worth of judgements. Roy Riggitano stated he could email the next day, the individual checks that went to the Joint Insurance Fund for settlements. Roy Riggitano said that the exact number, for the record, was \$518,081.65 that was paid out for judgements.

Mayor Kim asked CFO Roy Riggitano for the total again and Roy Riggitano repeated the number.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that the budget was \$240,000 and it was more than double the amount. Roy Riggitano said with all due respect to the councilwoman as it was no reflection on her, Roy Riggitano, or anyone on the finance team and it happened during the year. Roy Riggitano said that was why the law allowed them to rectify with resolution the over expenditures and that was what they were doing now.

Mayor Kim said that at the moment they were settling with the 15-year-old tax appeals.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that was not what he was talking about.

Mayor Kim asked what the judgments were from.

CFO Roy Riggitano said it was from employees.

Mayor Kim asked if it was employees that sued the borough or retiring.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it was both.

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Mayor Kim asked if it was information the council members knew already. Mayor Kim said that they could not do that without the CFOs authority.

CFO Roy Riggitano said it was all solved through resolutions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she had another question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that this fund would be used out of the surplus which meant that what was remaining was about two million something dollars. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that after they spent that it would go down to one point something million dollars. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she was right.

CFO Roy Riggitano said it had nothing to do with surplus.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon repeated that it was a surplus.

CFO Roy Riggitano stated that it had nothing to do with surplus. Roy Riggitano said that the resolution would go down to the division the next morning pass or fail so that they could get through the years budget process and it would become a differed charge from the 2026 budget.

Mayor Kim said that it was an extra expenditure they would have for 2026.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked it was going to impact the next years budget.

CFO Roy Riggitano said that it would be bad and would be roughly \$160 a household. Roy Riggitano said that they would never want to do a differed charge. Roy Riggitano said that for the record, it was his first differed charge for Palisades Park in all the years he worked in the borough. Roy Riggitano added that it was reviewed by the auditor as well.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if she had anymore questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she did but with the connection over zoom it was not easy to understand completely but she believed she understood.

Mayor Kim stated that Councilman Min also had questions and asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if they were done with her questions for now.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said that she was done for now.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min to continue.

Councilman Min said that they mentioned the judgements they settled with the employees. Councilman Min asked if they were supposed to pay those out of the surplus money.

CFO Roy Riggitano said no and that they used the appropriation judgements. Roy Riggitano said it was in the budget for \$240,000 but they spent \$480,000.

Mayor Kim said that it would be a higher budget the next year and they would have to have more expenditures as they did not use it from the surplus. Mayor Kim said this was the price of change. Mayor Kim stated that they all agreed to provide better service and reform so they could provide better for the people. Mayor Kim said it was part of the change. Mayor Kim said that the CFO showed the names on the list, but they could not disclose the names at the moment. Mayor Kim asked if there anymore questions. Mayor Kim stated that this was a former resolution they had to do. Mayor Kim asked what would happen if they did not do this.

CFO Roy Riggitano said they would get a differed charge, the division would promptly come ask why they did not listen to the CFO or professionals who presented it to them.

Mayor Kim stated that if there were no more further questions, he asked for a motion to pass the emergency resolution.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon apologized and asked Mayor Kim to repeat what CFO Roy Riggitano said.

CFO Roy Riggitano repeated because they did not have enough money in the budget to do transfers in its totality, the law required that they infused more money in that year's budget but by doing the infusion, they would get penalized the following year for the 2026 budget. Roy Riggitano said it was because they were going to have to raise before they would even start the process and now \$150 approximate on a household to cover the amount of emergencies in the current year.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon said she understood and thanked CFO Roy Riggitano.

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Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Kim said he really hoped they got it done. Mayor Kim stated they did not make things up and they all decided to take care of this legal matter with the vote. Mayor Kim stated that they could not spend a single dime without the majority support of the council members. Mayor Kim said he knew it was shocking but it was what it was to cost the legal fees that they all agreed upon. Mayor Kim said he suspected because of the proper management and better optimizing they made sure to not have those types of issues, the future would have less situations and judgements. Mayor Kim said it would not always be like that. Mayor Kim said he was hoping the council members would motion to pass off consent Resolution 2025-361.

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

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Councilman Kim        | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Lee      | Yes     |
| Councilman Min        | Abstain |
| Councilman Shin       | Yes     |
| Councilwoman Won-Yoon | Abstain |

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that off-consent agenda Resolution 2025-361 received three yes votes so the off-consent agenda was passed.

Mayor Kim thanked the council members and told them they did a great job. Mayor Kim said they were keeping good time.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Lee reported there would be a winter concert that Tuesday at 6PM at Lindbergh Elementary School and Thursday 7PM at the High School.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Lee to repeated the dates and she did.

Councilman Shin did not have anything to report.

Councilman Min asked if they were going to vote on the consent agenda.

Roberta Stern stated they just voted on the consent agenda.

Scott Krumholz stated Councilman Min had abstained.

Mayor Kim stated they voted for the consent agenda and the off-consent agenda after.

Councilman Min did not have anything to report but wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and Christmas.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't want to step on Councilman Mins toes and questioned if there was going to be a special event held by the police department on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Min stated the advertisement was up.

Mayor Kim stated the concert. Mayor Kim stated the police department was partnering with a philanthropist who was a professional orchestra performer. Mayor Kim stated they were going to do a holiday event on the 20<sup>th</sup> and food would be provided. Mayor Kim stated this was for the seniors of Palisades Park and encouraged guests to come.

Councilman Kim stated he did not have anything to report but wanted to wish everyone a safe and healthy holidays.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon did not have anything to report but also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mayor Kim stated he would keep it quick. Mayor Kim stated the new parking meters were not fully functioning and the police department would give a more detail report at a later time. Mayor Kim stated above all, it was progress. Mayor Kim stated the check in and check out time clock for employees had been functioning to make sure taxpayer money wasn't misappropriated. Mayor Kim stated they were working on the 12 Bellview Place parking lot, and if it was okay with the governing body, they wanted to put parking kiosks on Commercial Avenue. Mayor Kim stated the police chief would go into more detail at a later time, but Commercial Avenue was pretty much lawless. Mayor Kim stated there were garages and auto body shops parking their customer's cars everywhere and it couldn't be enforced because of the lack of parking meters. Mayor Kim again, invited everyone to attend the holiday concert in the borough hall at 5:30PM on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Kim stated a year had passed and he hoped everyone was well and expected better things for 2026. Mayor Kim wished everyone a Merry Christmas, happy Hanukah, and a happy new year.

## **ATTORNEY REPORT**

Scott Krumholz wished everyone a happy holiday and stated that night was the first night of Hanukah.

Roberta Stern stated it was the second night of Hanukah.

## **BA REPORT**

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Police Director Michael Gardner stated he would be quick. Summonses had went down that month to 1,268 because of the meters being down. He reviewed the police related OPRA requests for that past month and all the requests were responded to in a timely fashion. Michael Gardner stated he conducted evaluations on the special officers, traffic officers, code enforcement officer, and police records clerk. Michael Gardner stated three officers were graduating that Friday from the police academy. Michael Gardner congratulated Officer Lee as he finished his first round of finals for law school. Michael Gardner stated Officer Lee was doing his job and studying hard.

Police Chief George Beck stated Officer Lee brought the intensity to the job. Chief Beck stated he wanted to thank both Councilman Kim and Councilman Vietri for being a part of the council and wished them the best of luck on their future endeavors. Chief Beck stated he would miss them as they had been there for a long time. Chief Beck gave an update on the parking meters that there would be free parking from that night to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The new meters had been installed, and the data migration was processing. Chief Beck stated there had been some issues due to the weather, but they figured the next few weeks would allow enough time to figure everything out. Chief Beck stated special officers were nearing their five-week field training programs. For the police officers they did their yearly performance evaluations which included both strengths and weaknesses. Chief Beck stated they would continue to grow and develop with the officers. Chief Beck stated officers were out on the road, and they were enforcing the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign for the month of December. Chief Beck stated this was grant funded, and officers were out there pulling over drunk drivers to enforce added safety. Chief Beck stated there were still two more days to donate to the toy drive, and it seemed like people were very generous that year. Chief Beck thanked everyone. Chief Beck stated the day prior was the 105-year anniversary of the police department. Chief Beck stated he was very proud to be apart of the police department and to create paths and roadways for the future ahead. Chief Beck stated when the forefathers were thinking about this time back then he was sure they had envisioned getting the department moving forward. Chief Beck stated he hoped to see everyone at the upcoming concert for residents. Chief Beck stated there would be professional musicians, and guests would be impressed. Chief Beck stated the concert would start at 5:30PM and end at 7PM. Chief Beck stated he had met with his staff and would be unveiling the 2025 officer of the year that night. Chief Beck stated officers made nominations based on a specific criterion. Chief Beck stated they had to explain the reason including what these officers had done in the past year to reform the police department. Chief Beck stated it was heartfelt to hear what officers had to say about one another and the officer of the year would be revealed at the concert. Chief Beck wished everyone happy holidays.

Mayor Kim stated the director and chief were doing a great job by creating a tag team situation. Mayor Kim stated if it was okay with the borough administrator, he wanted to create another line item for donations. Mayor Kim stated this was something other towns did to give gifts to kids from Santa Clause. Mayor Kim stated he had already received one donation for \$1,000. Mayor Kim asked if it was okay to create that line item and if it could go up to \$5,000. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Council members motioned, and all joined in favor.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident stated he wouldn't come to the front but just wanted to wish the governing body a safe and healthy holidays.

Mayor Kim thanked him. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and return back to the regular meeting.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Shin.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to go into the executive session. Councilman Kim made a motion, and Councilwoman Lee seconded.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Following the executive session, Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the executive meeting and adjourn the regular meeting.

Councilman Shin made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim.

Councilman Kim stated they couldn't vote to close two meetings at once.

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Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz if that was correct. Scott Krumholz stated they first had to close the executive meeting and then close the regular session.

Mayor Kim stated he was going to do that. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Councilman Shin made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Lee. All joined in favor.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk.