

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

Special Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
December 26, 2025

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

STATEMENT:

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

1. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://palisadesparknj.org/>
2. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS LEAD BY COUNCILMAN SHIN.

ROLL CALL:

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

Mayor Kim stated on the record, if anyone knew the reason Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon did not show up to the meeting.

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang replied Councilwoman Won-Yoon was in Korea, and Councilman Min was out of the town.

Mayor Kim asked for confirmation that neither council members were in Palisades Park.

Sophia Jang stated that was correct.

Mayor Kim stated to let the record show that neither council members were in Palisades Park at the time of the meeting.

Sophia Jang began to take attendance for the borough attorney, but the borough Wi-Fi connection stopped working and the Zoom call was disconnected.

Mayor Kim asked Sophia Jang to use his hotspot and stated he couldn't believe it.

Sophia Jang apologized to Councilman Kim for the disconnect.

Councilman Kim recommended everyone to join via phone call instead of Zoom. Councilman Kim stated on everyone else's end that attended the meeting via Zoom, they were all connected and together.

Sophia Jang stated she kept recalling the attendees of the meeting, but the internet was not working properly.

Mayor Kim stated this was so much fun.

Sophia Jang reconnected the Zoom call after using Mayor Kim's hot spot.

Mayor Kim asked Borough Administrator Roberta Stern why she was calling him and asked her to hold on while they figured out the connection issues.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated that the connection was back up, but they could not see or hear the meeting.

Sophia Jang turned the microphone and camera back on.

Mayor Kim asked for the roll call to be done again, and it was. Mayor Kim asked for Councilwoman Lee and Councilman Kim to confirm they were both present. Both council members confirmed they were present.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present Via Zoom
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present Via Zoom

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Mayor Kim apologized for the delay and stated Roberta Stern had to figure things out with the Wi-Fi because there was a problem. Mayor Kim stated they were supposed to have an executive session that day, and the reason was because the governing body had to make a very big decision and they needed council members input. Mayor Kim stated this was one of the reasons council members were elected, and representing the people. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz to continue.

Scott Krumholz stated he couldn't see if there was anyone in the audience from the public, but he did want to mention that the meeting was to extend and reach out to council members regarding a legal issue and potential settlement options. Scott Krumholz stated there were a few council members that were invited, and it was a last-minute executive session with no action to be taken. Scott Krumholz apologized for any religious inconveniences but stated this was a meeting that had to be done and repeated no action was going to be taken. With that being said, Scott Krumholz explained that there were two or three council members they had been reaching out to over the course of the week that could not be there that night. Scott Krumholz stated due to the absences, there was no need to go into an executive session because they knew their collective which was between the mayor and present council. Scott Krumholz stated their current position regarding the settlement issue included reaching out to the council to explain their assumption if they did not hear back from them. Scott Krumholz stated in the interest of hearing all sides and objections, a meeting was scheduled, and the council members did not attend. Scott Krumholz stated it was his legal opinion that there was no need to proceed. If there was a motion to close or ask any questions they could do that, but again he wasn't sure if there were any members of the public present.

Mayor Kim stated there was no one in the public as a heavy storm was approaching. Mayor Kim stated he agreed with Scott Krumholz, and the reason they wanted to have the executive meeting was to educate and obtain remarks from the council members. Mayor Kim stated this was very important concerning the issue with complying with builders remedy. Mayor Kim stated Scott Krumholz sent an email to all council members explaining what their options were and what they needed to decide on. Mayor Kim stated he read the email, and council members were supposed to give an answer directly to the email. Mayor Kim stated they had been sending this email continuously requesting a response and only three council members had responded. Mayor Kim stated these council members were Councilwoman Lee, Councilman Shin, and Councilman Kim. Mayor Kim stated the executive session was for council members who did not answer the email or meet privately with the borough attorney to obtain education to make an adept decision. Mayor Kim stated these councilmembers did not participate, nor do their duty. Mayor Kim stated Scott Krumholz had explained what was going on and it was important for all council members to understand, agree, and move together as one. Mayor Kim stated these council members also passed up this opportunity which meant to him passing up their duties. Mayor Kim stated at the executive meeting the least they could have done was made it to the Zoom meeting after he asked. Mayor Kim stated council members were out of town but in the email Scott Krumholz had specifically stated whoever did not respond to the question, they would consider that this was an agreeance with the rest of the council who spoke up. Mayor Kim stated the rest of the council had decided to go with option one. Mayor Kim stated it was unfortunate that the other council members coincidentally were dragging their feet in his opinion concerning issues with builders remedy as well as the emergency appropriations they were supposed to pass. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to put this on record because these council members who were not present knew about the approval of the borough settling the claims and cases of lawsuits and agreed on it. Mayor Kim stated when it came to the appropriations they knew about it but did not want to pass it. Mayor Kim stated if the three councilmembers who abstained from voting, and also Councilman Vietri did not attend the Sine Die Meeting then he saw it as the council members not performing their duties. Mayor Kim stated this could create a lot of havoc and liability for the borough especially with the fine they were expecting from the Department of Community Affairs. Mayor Kim stated he was very concerned. He wasn't sure if these council members were interested or if they were trying to stone wall for political reasons because they were running the following year. Mayor Kim continued that he expected them to perform their duties and they weren't. Mayor Kim stated council members were not agreeing to what they had to do when they approved the settlements and were abstaining them. Mayor Kim stated he was very disappointed and wasn't sure what was going to happen. Mayor Kim stated they had to move forward and wanted the public to understand and acknowledge that the governing body tried their best to make the three council members perform their duties.

Roberta Stern stated she wanted to clarify that Scott Krumholz also sent a text to these council members as well as an email.

Scott Krumholz confirmed that was correct and stated he did not receive anything back regarding an out of office reply, non-deliverable reply, or a direct response. Scott Krumholz stated he received a response from Councilman Kim who he spoke to earlier that day.

Roberta Stern thanked him.

Mayor Kim stated he appreciated everyone's time and hoped everyone got home safe. Mayor Kim asked if any council members had any more questions.

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Councilman Shin asked if there was a motion that had to be made.

Mayor Kim stated a motion did not have to be made. Mayor Kim stated it was confirmed by the borough attorney that a resolution did not have to be made because they needed a consensus for their builders remedy cases to continue on, so the borough didn't get into trouble.

Councilwoman Lee stated she wanted to make one point for the record. Councilwoman Lee stated the timing was driven by the recent decision made by the appellate court, so this timing wasn't driven by any of the councilmembers but by a court's decision. Councilwoman Lee stated everyone in the meeting was trying to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed and thanked Councilwoman Lee and Councilman Shin for spending hours with him and the special attorneys.

Councilman Shin stated this was a serious issue in town and he thought all council members should have deep thoughts about this issue and think of the best interest of the residents. Councilman Shin stated he had been studying a lot about this issue and believed this was the best resolution for the residents. Councilman Shin stated they would be in a lot more trouble, including financially, and cause chaos.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed and asked if anyone else had any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the special meeting and adjourn.

ADJOURN

Councilman Kim made a motion and Councilman Shin seconded. All joined in favor.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Borough Clerk