

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

Regular Meeting
of the Mayor & Council
January 27, 2026

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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 13, 2026, 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 DONOHUE.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilman Donohue	Present
Councilman Kwak	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Shin	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Allan Roth	Present
Borough Administrator Roberta Stern	Present

Mayor Kim stated before they moved onto the adoption of the minutes, he had a public announcement to make to the public and council members. Mayor Kim stated it was very unfortunate that they received a letter from the Department of Community Affairs concerning the emergency appropriation Resolution 2025-361. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to read the letter verbatim, so the council and public acknowledged what happened. Mayor Kim read, "Dear Mayor and Council, the Division of Local Government Services has received your request to reconsider our denial of an appropriation cap exception under N.J.S.A. 40A:40-43.3C1 for the Borough of Palisades Park. The \$775,000 emergency appropriation for the 2025 fiscal year which had been adopted after December 31, 2025, closing out the 2025 fiscal year. After thorough review of the record including the communication history between the borough and the Division Borough of Financial Regulations. The relevant law, I am sustaining the denial for the reasons set forth below. Number one, governing law, the local budget law N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1. Governance appropriation by a municipality specific to the boroughs' requirements. Purpose and timing of appropriation, emergency appropriations are intended for purposes unforeseen at the time of budget adoption. The emergency appropriation must be made prior to the next preceding fiscal year and shall be provided in full by the governing body as the first charge in the budget succeeding the fiscal year N.J.S.A.40A: 4-46&47. Expenditures void without appropriations – expenditures made without an appropriation or exceeding the amount appropriated are void. N.J.S.A.40A:4-57 voting requirements and Chief Financial Officer affidavit. N.J.S.A.40A:4-48 requires that an emergency resolution be adopted not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body. Prior to the voting on their resolution, the Chief Financial Officer must provide the governing body with an affidavit certifying whether any contracts have been awarded, including any purchase orders placed in connection with the proposed emergency appropriation. Once adopted, the certified resolution authorizing the emergency appropriation together with the CFO affidavit shall be filed with the division director N.J.S.A.40A:4-52. Fourth, appropriations cap treatment. N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.3C1 authorizes the division director to approve in acceptance to the municipal appropriation cap for emergency appropriations that do not exceed the 3% previous year's final operating appropriation. Analysis, the boroughs request fails on both procedural and substantive grounds. First the boroughs' initial attempt to adopt Resolution 2025-361 on December 15, 2025, failed to meet the statutory threshold. The votes were three yes, two abstains, and one absent. This does not constitute the 2/3 majority of the four members N.J.S.A.40A:4-48 and N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.1C1. Second, the borough asserts that the governing body was permitted to adopt Resolution 2025-361 at its January 5, 2026, Sine Die Meeting. However, the local budget expressly requires the governing body to authorize an emergency appropriation prior to the next proceeding fiscal year. With the borough having a calendar year of budget cycle December 31, 2025, was the final day of the borough's 2025 fiscal year. A Sine Die Meeting held subsequently in the calendar year does not conform with the clear statutory language of the local budget law which mandates the completion within the relevant fiscal year. Finally, the substantive nature of the emergency is improper contrary to Mr. Riggitano's representation on his December 15, 2025, and January 5, 2026, affidavits that no contracts were awarded or purchase orders placed in connection with the proposal for the emergency appropriation. Supporting documentations provided by the borough include finance reports showing covered and paid purchase orders with expenses

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that were subject of the emergency appropriation resolution. Further, Mr. Riggitano specifically labeled these expenditures in his December 17, 2025, cover memo to the division. Expenditures made without an appropriation or in excess of the appropriation are void. Even if 2/3 of the full membership of the boroughs governing body had authorized an emergency appropriation before the end of 2025, such appropriatio would have been "Ex Post Facto". Division records, and prior audit findings including comments 24-07 and 24-N indicate a pattern of the borough's expenditures in excess of the budget's appropriation and ordering goods prior to incubance. In conclusion, the borough failed to adopt an emergency resolution within the 2025 calendar fiscal year as required by the local budget law. Furthermore, the nature of the request covering overexpenditures resulting from poor internal controls mandate that these costs be addressed within the 2026 budget appropriation cap. For the reasons stated above, the denial for the application for excluding \$775,000 in over expenditures from its CY2026 appropriations cap calculation is sustained. The borough must now provide these over expenditures in full in CY2026 budget subject to all applicable appropriations cap limitations. If the borough wishes to appeal this determination to the Local Finance Board, it must be filed in ten days from the date of this letter." Mayor Kim stated he wanted to give everyone a summary of what happened. Mayor Kim explained there was an emergency appropriation that happened whether it was proper or not, some council members felt proper procedures were more important than results. Because of this, the first emergency appropriation did not pass because they didn't have enough votes. Mayor Kim stated they received two abstentions. On the second try, Mayor Kim hoped to get the two new council members in so that they would help fulfill the four votes they needed. Mayor Kim stated there were some council members missing from the vote at the Sine Die Meeting, and the professionals including the auditors pleaded with the governing body that they passed the appropriations and figured out the rest concerning proper procedures later. Mayor Kim stated it did not happen. They were hoping they could pass the emergency appropriation so the amount would be out of cap instead of in cap which was 3%. Mayor Kim stated they could only raise 3% each year within each cap, and if this emergency appropriation was not approved it would have to be in cap. Mayor Kim stated in other words, they had a 3% increase that they could use for 2026 but before they did anything, because the governing body had two councilmembers who voted no at the last meeting, they were stuck with the fact that they had to take the \$775,000 out of the 3% first and then figure out the budget. Mayor Kim stated they had a lot of problems at that time, a procedural problem and the effect on the public due to the lack of funds for 2026 including the loss of public service. Mayor Kim stated this effected residents who needed public service. Mayor Kim stated they had to think of a way to reduce expenditures for 2026 and expeditiously generate revenue. Mayor Kim repeated there was a big problem and the CFO even recommended they cut employees. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to hear from the borough administrator to see what her intentions and plans were.

Roberta Stern stated it was important that they reviewed everything. Roberta Stern stated she was very concerned with the letter they received from the D.C.A and still wanted to explore it personally a bit further. Roberta Stern stated a letter was one thing but as a representative of the borough, even if she had to go to Trenton personally to meet Michael Rogers, the director of the D.C.A she would. Roberta Stern stated she believed this was appropriate and she didn't want to leave this kind of thing alone. Roberta Stern stated after that, they had to address how they were going to spend money in 2026. The Finance Office had started to provide council members with a budget status report which they would receive every month. Roberta Stern stated they had a new Finance Committee who were very proactive and tried to get to the bottom of how the finances worked instead of dictating how they should work. Roberta Stern continued that they were trying to get a baseline of information, and she believed the finance committee meetings would be very productive going forward. Roberta Stern stated they would look at all items in the budget and see where they could cut money. Roberta Stern stated they would also entertain – Roberta Stern stated they had a lot of smart council members that were elected to represent the people and not themselves or their own issues. Roberta Stern stated between all of them as a group, she thought everyone should think of a good way to raise revenue and replace the money that the conundrum caused. Roberta Stern stated it was unfortunate that the two council members didn't understand even though there was a lengthy discussion on it which didn't seem to matter. Roberta Stern stated that it was in the past and the important thing was coming up with better procedures. Roberta Stern stated there would be more awareness to every council member of exactly how money was being spent in the monthly budget reports. Roberta Stern stated in 2024 these reports were also prepared and in 2025 they hadn't been because of the change in the financial systems in the computer. Roberta Stern repeated during the change from one system to another it was impossible to get the reports.

Mayor Kim stated he was concerned with the D.C.A whether it was right or wrong they had to get to the bottom of it. Mayor Kim stated she had to be responsible in finding out what exactly they were talking about and thought it was a good idea she contacted the D.C.A directly to address the root of the problem. Mayor Kim stated if that was true, they had to figure out how to rectify it. Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to explain.

Allan Roth stated the D.C.A - which was one of the things that Roberta Stern, Roy Riggitano, and himself would go to speak with Mr. Rodgers about was regarding the third paragraph of the letter. In the

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meantime, he had spoken to the Mayor and Council President about initiating fiscal programs and procedures regarding purchasing and appropriations. Allan Roth stated it was his recommendation that they receive input from all stakeholders and put together proposals or guidelines that the council would vote on. Allan Roth stated this would be policies themselves.

Mayor Kim stated he appreciated the Council President Sang Lee for recommending that and stated Roberta Stern and himself agreed.

Allan Roth stated in line with what she said, they would also include that the monthly report for budget status be part of that as well and not left out. Allan Roth stated it would be something all professional stakeholders had a say in and then could provide for the February meeting. Allan Roth stated the Resolution 2026-52 would be withdrawn from the resolution which was part of the package of the new procedures going forward. Allan Roth stated instead of doing this and getting things confused, they were looking to resolve issues and not create more. Allan Roth repeated that it would be pulled and incorporated into the procedures. Allan Roth stated he wanted to say to all the council that they operated under a borough form of government. Allan Roth stated one or two council members could not make determinations or dictate to the professional staff. Allan Roth stated they could consult or inquire with the professional staff but could not dictate actions. Allan Roth stated council members shouldn't tap on a D.P.W worker's shoulder and tell them to go cut grass which would be micromanaging. Allan Roth stated it was also a safety issue because if they were telling someone to do something, and the employee went out without the department head's knowledge, they wouldn't know. Allan Roth stated regarding the professional staff they had to be able to operate, which was why they had a borough administrator. Allan Roth stated the borough administrator was their professional manager and they had to allow that to happen, which was why he mentioned that they could inquire. Allan Roth stated they worked off of committees and reports were made to be able to function and facilitate conversations with the CFO, administrator, mayor, or whoever. Allan Roth stated the council had to bring the reports back so all council members were aware and could move forward. Allan Roth stated council members should not be calling the federal government and representing that they were the person dictating what occurred at a federal, state, or county level to obtain information that had not been discussed to the full council. Allan Roth continued that to solve the problems and move forward, they had to have some sort of (speaking indistinctly) on the dais to deal with the builder's remedy cases and affordable housing for the betterment of the town. Allan Roth stated the CFO had advised him that day that the courts had come out against the towns that had filed a statewide consolidated affordable housing lawsuit. Allan Roth stated that they had been rejected by the court in favor of fair share housing, so they had to stay in front of this, be proactive, and resolve the issues instead of holding the borough back and costing them more money. Allan Roth stated that was why they had the resolution on the agenda to settle one of the fair share housing legal fees to get it done. Allan Roth stated they had to put this past them to move forward. Allan Roth stated as the mayor had mentioned they had to review the shared services agreements to create or eliminate them where it was necessary. Allan Roth stated cutting budget and looking to retain essential services was what the professional staff was going to present. Allan Roth stated the professionals had to come to them and discuss the options. Allan Roth stated they had to review the assets and liabilities of the borough which were all things referenced in the D.C.A letter which they had to deal with going forward. Allan Roth stated they had to work on cutting costs and now had a statewide problem regarding health benefits.

Mayor Kim stated there was a 36.5% increase in statewide health benefits apart of a larger joint insurance.

Allan Roth stated professional staff would be leading this so that the council could sit back as a collective and decide how they wanted to move forward.

Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano to reiterate the situation considering the emergency appropriation not being passed. Mayor Kim stated it was now within the 3% cap and asked what this meant budget wise and for the borough. Mayor Kim stated they were lost and they'd never been in this situation before. Mayor Kim stated it seemed other towns had never been there before and 99% of emergency appropriations had passed according to his research. Mayor Kim stated this was unfamiliar territory and asked what they were looking at since it was now in cap.

Roy Riggitano stated whatever the cap was, which they didn't know yet and would get a finite number that year, the borough could raise a certain amount for that year's budget. Roy Riggitano stated that because they were allowed to raise this certain amount of money, the \$775,000 of that would be put in the cap which meant if they had 1 million Dollars in the cap they would be left with \$200,000 to manage the borough within the cap itself. Roy Riggitano stated the cap was in the tens of millions, but those numbers wouldn't be released until March. Roy Riggitano stated that because of the over expenditures, that was the reason it was incumbered to try and get the emergency resolution passed to keep the \$775,000 out of othe cap so the borough could manage better and provide essential services. Roy Riggitano stated it was always going to be taxes.

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Mayor Kim stated they were pretty much and would be negatively affected with basic public services that had been provided to the public.

Roy Riggitano replied absolutely, they now had their hands tied.

Mayor Kim stated it was because they didn't pass the emergency appropriation.

Roy Riggitano stated that was correct.

Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano to continue.

Roy Riggitano stated that was it. They could not provide numbers because they were working on the financials but would have them for March. At that time, when bills came in, they were charging the right budget which was 2025. Roy Riggitano stated that \$775,000 could be a million dollars but they wouldn't know until March when they had their final transfer of the 2025 budget which was on March 31st. Roy Riggitano stated that was why they waited until December for the current budget, and that was why they waited until March to do an appropriation reserve budget which would have been the year prior's budget. Roy Riggitano stated most of the bills would be in by March 31st, and then they could educationally tell the governing body what they actually were. Roy Riggitano stated bills were still coming in.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed with Roy Riggitano and appreciated that he was working with the Finance Committee so diligently as they were learning fast. Mayor Kim stated one thing they all learned together at that meeting was that it was a bit different than a private entity. Mayor Kim stated a public service government borough like Palisades Park could not gauge future revenue based on what was happening at the current time. Mayor Kim stated he heard something and stated for example if the borough was generating revenue of \$200,000 from parking fees, then they had to stick with it even though they put in new parking meters. Mayor Kim stated they had projected about \$600,000 in revenue from the meters annually but could not actually calculate that. Mayor Kim stated they could calculate the expenses. Mayor Kim stated just because they found a new income that was not accepted and asked if he was correct.

Roy Riggitano stated Mayor Kim was correct. Roy Riggitano stated they were a cash basis budget which meant whatever revenue the borough received until December 31, 2025, was the revenue that they could budget for 2026. Roy Riggitano stated there were a few exceptions but that was the rule of thumb.

Mayor Kim asked if any council members had any questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon began to speak but Mayor Kim interjected and asked her who she was talking to. Mayor Kim asked if Councilwoman Won-Yoon was talking to him or to the public.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she was talking to everyone.

Mayor Kim advised Councilwoman Won-Yoon that she had to speak to him.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she thought it was good that the borough was the face of the type of challenges they had. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she was all for finding solutions but there were a couple of comments to the administration for them to reconsider. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had three things; one was when there was a financial deficit usually the first thing that happened was a freeze in hiring new employees. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the second thing was they had to eliminate all unnecessary costs. The third one was, as the D.C.A letter mentioned, the borough had poor internal control, and she thought they should improve the poor internal control.

Mayor Kim stated he understood that Councilwoman Won-Yoon was concurring with what they were trying to do. Mayor Kim stated he liked the fact that they were trying to fix what was wrong. Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon mentioned putting a halt to hiring but he disagreed with that because there were some essential services that the borough had to continue that year. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't the end of the world, and some of the hirings they had done included a code enforcement officer which the borough needed and generated revenue. Mayor Kim stated one person, like he mentioned at the Work Session, handling the code enforcement for a 28,000 population wasn't possible and they needed more. Mayor Kim stated at that time the code enforcement officer would be out of commission for a bit, and they needed constant code enforcement. Mayor Kim stated again some things were essential services that the borough needed.

Roberta Stern stated they couldn't let certain things fall by the wayside which was how a town fell apart. Roberta Stern stated this was how people saw nothing was getting cleaned up. Roberta Stern stated that was why in an instance like ice being left on a sidewalk that was where a code enforcement officer would step in and take care of it. Roberta Stern stated it was health, safety, and a matter of having the

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town look nice instead of having garbage out and broken down. Roberta Stern stated the code enforcers followed ordinances and cleaned up what needed to be cleaned up. If this wasn't continued, they would be breaking everything they cared about in the town.

Mayor Kim stated he just didn't understand.

Roberta Stern stated there were some things more important than others.

Mayor Kim stated he understood that, but they were in the situation that they didn't get it and they were in trouble. Mayor Kim stated they had to reduce their expenditures but they could not remove – Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano had mentioned cutting off employees which was something he didn't want to think of because he believed the people working at the borough worked diligently and the last thing he wanted to do was cut off employees but that option was on the table. Mayor Kim stated those who were concerned about what they were going to do about the 2026 budget were working diligently and looking at other ways like consulting with the borough administrator and pulling resolutions. Mayor Kim stated he believed they had some good ideas to reduce the expenditure, but they would speak about it later.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Work Session of the Mayor and Council:	December 8, 2025
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	December 15, 2025
Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	December 15, 2025
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	December 26, 2025

Mayor Kim asked council members if there were any concerns and stated he believed Councilman Shin had spoken to Sophia Jang about something prior, and asked Councilman Shin if he was okay with it.

Councilman Shin confirmed he was good.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the adoption of minutes.

Councilman Donohue made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kwak. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes except December 26, 2025, minutes as she was absent for that meeting and would abstain from the vote.

Mayor Kim stated this definitely had to be covered by the governing body whether it was the borough administrator or clerk to make sure that if people were not present at the meetings, they abstained from passing the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 2026-1 Amending Chapter 247 "Sewers"

Allan Roth stated he was going to strike this ordinance because although there were sewer hook ups that were revised, they were looking into waste flow being included in the ordinance. Allan Roth stated that it would be presented to the council the following month.

Mayor Kim stated they were striking Ordinance 2026-1.

**ORDINANCE 2026-2 Creating Article XXVI to be Entitled "Borough Clerk" in Chapter 48.:
"Officers and Employees"**

Mayor Kim stated there were a few council members that inquired about the conditions set forth regarding responsibilities of the clerk. Mayor Kim stated with the recommendation from the governing body, borough administrator and borough attorney, and also Sophia Jang they adopted the same thing as state statute. Mayor Kim stated he hoped the council members would be satisfied with that.

Allan Roth stated he did add things in pursuant to their Work Session Meeting. Allan Roth stated that was how a Work Session was supposed to run, they told Allan Roth what to change, he fixed it and gave it

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back to them. Allan Roth stated most of it was exactly from the state statute for the clerk, but he did include a couple of other items that clarified more but were already also included in the state statute.

Mayor Kim stated it was proven that they replaced the description and duties of the clerk. Mayor Kim stated Roberta Stern had found out while she was housekeeping and he thought it was important they put it in. Mayor Kim also stated Sophia Jang confirmed this was fine. Mayor Kim asked for a motion close and open to the public.

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

Following the public participation portion, Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what the additional responsibilities were.

Allan Roth replied the license collection of all licensing would be done through the Clerk's Office which was supposed to be done anyways. Allan Roth continued the clerk would then report to the council any violations of anyone holding the license. Allan Roth stated the other portion of it was the custodian of records and that the keeping of the corporate seal was the only thing additional outside of the statute. Allan Roth stated someone had to hold the corporate seal and it should be the clerk which was why they put it in the ordinance. Allan Roth stated he wouldn't want to keep it in the CFO's Office, or Finance Office.

Mayor Kim stated to remember the borough administrator as well.

Allan Roth stated it was to be handled in the Clerk's Office because the clerk had to certify everything anyways.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if this was a clerk's ordinance.

Mayor Kim replied yes and that this ordinance was approved by the borough administrator, clerk, and attorney.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a question. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated every year she had to apply for a license for her dog at the Health Department. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if this ordinance was now designating all licenses to the clerk.

Allan Roth stated no, he was saying any violations of licenses would have to be reported to the governing body. Allan Roth stated when the clerk saw the applications she would – Councilwoman Won-Yoon interjected and stated the ordinance read all license applications.

Roberta Stern stated it referred to traditional applications that always went to the clerk. Roberta Stern stated the dog license application didn't go to the clerk and it never did.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she thought they had to make that clear.

Allan Roth stated section A stated except unless otherwise specified by borough ordinance, so it covered what they were talking about.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had to look at the Health Department ordinance to make sure that the Health Department was the one she went to.

Allan Roth stated this was the first reading of the ordinance so if there was a small change, he could make it. Allan Roth repeated this was the first read and if Councilwoman Won-Yoon had any concerns they could figure it out before the next meeting.

Roberta Stern stated seriously, it was pretty clear.

Mayor Kim stated it was a minimal change and what Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted to talk about was prudent to figure out and didn't change the format and content of the ordinance. Mayor Kim stated they could fix it before the second reading.

Allan Roth stated that was if he needed to make any changes.

Roberta Stern stated it was pretty clear that it said exactly that. If it was covered by another ordinance or law that, was it. Roberta Stern stated that it was pretty clear.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated from the resident's point of view, she needed to know where to go for what license and make sure – Roberta Stern interjected and stated the Health Department which was where they always went.

Mayor Kim stated for liquor licenses they didn't go to the Health Department but to the clerk and they all knew that. Mayor Kim stated that was what they meant but if Councilwoman Won-Yoon wanted more details regarding small information the attorney was there to speak to and they could move past the first reading. Mayor Kim stated what Councilwoman Won-Yoon was talking about wouldn't change the content of the ordinance.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon agreed.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions.

Councilman Min stated Section 142.4 custodian of the records.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min to repeat what he was talking about.

Councilman Min repeated custodian of the records.

Mayor Kim questioned him again and then found what he was looking for.

Councilman Min stated the ordinance read "the clerk shall have custody of and safely keep all the records, books, and documents of the borough except those permitted by ordinance to any other office." Councilman Min stated the Mayor and Council could not override a statutory position by ordinance because it stated other office.

Allan Roth stated Councilman Min was reading too much into the ordinance. Allan Roth stated the ordinance read to share custody of or safely keep all records. Allan Roth stated the clerk was the custodian of records, and at the end of the day if someone needed something they needed to know where they had to go. They would make that request to the clerk who would then go and obtain that information from someone else. Allan Roth stated they didn't physically have to be in the office, and clearly personnel records would not be in the Clerk's Office. Allan Roth stated if the clerk needed something regarding that she would have to make the request to finance. Allan Roth repeated he thought Councilman Min was reading too much into it.

Councilman Min stated the ordinance read any other office.

Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min needed clarification. Mayor Kim read, "other office or transferred thereto the Mayor and Council." Mayor Kim stated he interpreted that as the borough clerk didn't get all the information because she wanted it but because she had to have it for record keeping. Mayor Kim stated he may get a notice from the state, or a councilmember might get some other information, and they would have to give it to the clerk which was what it meant. Mayor Kim asked if he was correct.

Allan Roth stated that was correct and stated the clerk didn't physically maintain under lock and key every single document. Allan Roth stated if there was an OPRA request that required information from the police department they would have to go through the Clerk's Office to make the request. Allan Roth stated if there was a request for documentation from the Health Department, they would also go through the clerk otherwise it was a free for all. Allan Roth stated that was why the ordinance stated one designated person who was the clerk. Allan Roth stated in most towns it was the clerk.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass the introduction of Ordinance 2026-2.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	No
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	No

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced there were four yes votes and two no votes. The ordinance 2026-3 was passed.

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Mayor Kim stated the ordinance passed but he wanted to take the time to inquire why the council members voted no. Mayor Kim stated their votes were their votes and what they thought mattered a lot. Mayor Kim stated especially when it came to the emergency appropriation when they needed four votes. Mayor Kim stated he thought they went through the motions to answer questions and wanted to take a moment to make sure the council members understood and wondered why they voted no if they did understand it.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she was more worried about compliance because statute was already established by the state which was what they included in the ordinance. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this could perhaps cause a problem if something was not in compliance. Rather than rewriting the same thing through ordinance, she didn't understand why they couldn't just follow the state statute.

Mayor Kim stated that was what they were doing.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the duties were already established in a state statute so there wasn't a need to point it out in an ordinance. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated if there were additional duties, they could include it.

Mayor Kim replied no, this was from the state statute, and they added that the clerk should be the custodian of records. Mayor Kim asked if Councilwoman Won-Yoon agreed that Sophia Jang was the record keeper.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon agreed she was.

Mayor Kim stated the other thing in question was regarding the corporate seal and asked if Councilwoman Won-Yoon knew the clerk had to hold the corporate seal.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that was fine.

Mayor Kim asked what it was she was saying then.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon replied Section 48-142.3 could just be pointed out in the statute.

Councilman Min stated it was already a state statute and was repetitive. Councilman Min stated he didn't know why this came up in an ordinance and stated if the state made changes, they would have to readopt the ordinance over again.

Mayor Kim stated if that was the reason Councilman Min voted no he was happy he opened up to clear things up.

Allan Roth stated he could answer Councilman Min's question. Allan Roth stated in subsection G that stated "Perform any other duties that are now or imposed by statute, regulation, or municipal ordinance" was directly from the state statute. Allan Roth stated he included that directly from the state statute.

Mayor Kim replied sure, but he thought Councilman Min wanted to talk about why this was being put in an ordinance.

Councilman Min stated yes, all of a sudden.

Mayor Kim stated every single other town had an ordinance in place for the borough clerk.

Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon both stated no that wasn't true.

Mayor Kim stated yes it was and it was mandated to put in an ordinance.

Councilman Min replied no it wasn't.

Mayor Kim stated the two council members weren't attorneys and had to stop acting like one.

Allan Roth stated it wasn't mandated but if they established a position, it should have been established by ordinance. Allan Roth stated he didn't know a town that didn't have a clerk's ordinance.

Roberta Stern stated she didn't know why this got so blown out of proportion or why this became such an issue. Roberta Stern explained that the deputy clerk was in the borough ordinance, but they did not have a deputy clerk therefore it made sense to put the clerk in the borough ordinance because she was the record

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keeper, custodian of records, and secretary to the Mayor and Council. Roberta Stern stated it was beyond her understanding that this would be an issue and she didn't understand. Roberta Stern stated they shouldn't waste more time on it because it was very simple, they were correcting a wrong with a right.

Allan Roth stated that was correct, because the position didn't exist. Allan Roth reiterated they had a position for deputy borough clerk but not the clerk and were codifying in which they had too anyways.

Roberta Stern stated like she said she appreciated they were trying to find out why, but it was so clear. Roberta Stern stated they took a vote, council members spoke their opinions on it, and she thought that should stand on the record.

Mayor Kim stated he thought it might protect the borough clerk because if anyone questioned why the borough didn't have an ordinance for the clerk he didn't want to go back to it. Mayor Kim thanked everyone for the conversation and asked to move forward.

Sophia Jang announced the introduction of Ordinance 2026-2 "Creating Article XXVI to be Entitled "Borough Clerk" in Chapter 48.: "Officers and Employees"" was passed at the Regular Meeting held on January 27, 2026.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ORDINANCE 2026-2

Mayor Kim asked if anyone from the public had anything they wanted to discuss regarding the ordinance. When no one volunteered, Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public participation portion and return to the Regular Meeting.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2026-38	Claims
RESOLUTION 2026-39	Continuance of the Cash Management Plan
RESOLUTION 2026-40	Appointment of Special Police Persons
RESOLUTION 2026-41	Authorizing Contract with Bergen County for Employee Assistance Program
RESOLUTION 2026-42	Acceptance of Resignation (Re: J. Grala)
RESOLUTION 2026-43	FY2025 Bergen County CDBG Grant Agreement for Commercial Avenue Road Improvements
RESOLUTION 2026-44	Authorizing Settlement with Fair Share Housing Center
RESOLUTION 2026-45	Authorization of Interlocal Agreement (Re: Mutual Aid Plan & Rapid Deployment)
RESOLUTION 2026-46	Authorizing Public Notice by Publication and Website
RESOLUTION 2026-47	Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for the position of Clerk Secretary
RESOLUTION 2026-48	Awarding Contract for Elevator Inspection Services (Re: Top Floor Elevated Solutions LLC)
RESOLUTION 2026-49	Hiring Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer (Re: T. Son)
RESOLUTION 2026-50	Award Contract for Swim Club Pool Filters Repairs (Re: Main Line Commercial Pools)
RESOLUTION 2026-51	Authorization to Payment for recovered funds in the Amount of \$ 5,000 (Re: A. Gentile)
RESOLUTION 2026-52	Authorization for Treasurer to Pay Certain Bills in Advance of Governing Body Approval
RESOLUTION 2026-53	Authorizing the Advertisement of Third Round RFQ for Appraiser
RESOLUTION 2026-54	Authorizing the Advertisement of Third Round RFQ for Labor Counsel
RESOLUTION 2026-55	Authorizing a Settlement Agreement with Builder's Remedy (Re: Golden Value)
RESOLUTION 2026-56	Appointing Police Director (Re: M. Gardner)
RESOLUTION 2026-57	Authorizing Service Agreement to Parkmobile, LLC for Parking Pay Stations
RESOLUTION 2026-58	Mayor's Appointment for 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-58 Mayor's Appointment for 2026

Allan Roth stated they were adding Resolution 2026-58.

Mayor Kim stated he sent an email to council members explaining the urgency.

Allan Roth stated it was added to the agenda as Resolution 2026-58.

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RESOLUTION 2026-52 Authorization for Treasurer to Pay Certain Bills in Advance of Governing Body Approval

Allan Roth stated they were striking the resolution which was the ability to pay appropriate bills. Allan Roth stated that it would be presented in a resolution the following month.

RESOLUTION 2026-55 Authorizing a Settlement Agreement with Builder's Remedy (Re: Golden Value)

Allan Roth stated they were removing Resolution 2026-55 because he had received an email at around 4:30PM that the borough's attorney and Golden Value's attorneys were still negotiating a settlement.

RESOLUTION 2026-50 Award Contract for Swim Club Pool Filters Repairs (Re: Main Line Commercial Po

Councilman Shin asked to discuss Resolution 2026-50.

Mayor Kim asked what the council thought of it.

Councilman Shin stated it was awarding a large amount, so they had to review it again.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed. Mayor Kim stated there were council members actively trying to figure out ways to save the borough money. Mayor Kim stated the swimming pool was something that had to be discussed and at that time even though the borough administrator worked hard to get the pump going for the following year, it costed about \$300,000. Mayor Kim stated they still had time to figure out what they could do with the pool. Mayor Kim stated he understood but because the emergency appropriation didn't pass, they had to think of every option even if it sounded extreme. Mayor Kim asked if they were going to spend the \$300,000 at that time, and stated he thought they had time to discuss it longer. Mayor Kim stated he knew she worked very hard on it.

Roberta Stern stated this had nothing to do with her. Getting the pool open the year prior turned her world upside down trying to get the pump, and water meters done. Roberta Stern stated that was a separate issue because there was no discussion. The council previously had not done anything to maintain the swimming pool, and they were left with not being able to open because they didn't comply with the standards that Veolia had for men working inside a confined space. Roberta Stern stated this was a different issue and they had two different things going on that everyone had to be aware of that was standing. Roberta Stern stated luckily the contractors hadn't started working, which she wasn't too sure of and she was annoyed about because they were supposed to do the groundwork at that time and then install the ordered equipment in the spring so that it didn't sit all winter and get damaged during the storms. Roberta Stern stated with that being said, and she had to defer to her attorney, they had existing contracts with people. If they weren't going to open the pool, they had to find out what contracts were already signed.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern not to go too far. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Shin was asking because they didn't pass the emergency appropriation – Roberta Stern interjected and stated she understood but thought this was something everyone needed to know.

Mayor Kim stated it was something that needed to be discussed.

Roberta Stern stated there was no question.

Mayor Kim replied unfortunately.

Roberta Stern stated there was part of it that if the borough wasn't laying money out and this money, was bond money that was already introduced and was standing on the borough.

Mayor Kim stated he understood.

Roberta Stern replied in other words they wouldn't be spending money that was either in or out of the cap because – Mayor Kim interjected and stated they all understood that.

Mayor Kim stated they had a pool meeting and Roy Riggitano explained everything to them. Mayor Kim stated he was going to have to agree with the council members that the swimming pool was a service that had to be discussed.

Roberta Stern agreed and stated there was salary that was an expense. Roberta Stern stated it wasn't what they were doing and could quite frankly do the work.

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Mayor Kim stated he understood Roberta Stern was adamant about the swimming pool and worked very hard however because the emergency appropriation did not pass, they were at extreme measures. Mayor Kim stated the governing body, or four council members that were working hard to find out where they could save money, had to put it on the table and discuss.

Roberta Stern stated she agreed.

Mayor Kim stated he knew it took about two months for the pumps to be put in at the pool and stated they had at least a month to discuss.

Roberta Stern confirmed she agreed.

Councilman Shin asked if they were saying if the resolution wasn't passed at that meeting the swimming pool was not going to be opened on time.

Mayor Kim replied yes, they could wait another month and then asked if they had one more month.

Roberta Stern stated she hoped so and she wasn't the technician.

Mayor Kim stated he understood that, but it should have been able to be completed in two months and if not, then something was wrong. Mayor Kim stated he would take the recommendation from Councilman Shin to strike out the resolution. Mayor Kim stated to pull this out as this was a lot of money and they had to figure out how they were going to take care of the people regarding essential services.

Allan Roth asked if he had authorized him to request an extension of the bids and hold them for sixty days so they could ask for consent.

Mayor Kim thanked him and stated that may have been more amicable and flexible for the situation.

Allan Roth stated he would reach out to them and asked how many bidders there were.

Roberta Stern stated their main one was out of Pennsylvania.

Allan Roth asked if there was only one bid received.

Roberta Stern stated there were either four or five, but the bidder awarded was the lowest bidder.

Allan Roth stated any bidder that wasn't rejected would have to be contacted.

Roberta Stern asked why they couldn't just extend the contract.

Allan Roth replied because they only had sixty days to hold the bids and if they agreed to extend it then – Roberta Stern finished his sentence and stated then it wasn't an issue.

Allan Roth confirmed that was what he was trying to say.

Roberta Stern stated whatever Allan Roth said because he was the attorney.

Mayor Kim repeated this was struck out.

RESOLUTION 2026-58 Mayor's Appointment for 2026

Councilman Donohue stated he knew the mayor worked hard to save money with the mayor's appointment list. Councilman Donohue stated he didn't get to read through the whole thing and asked if there were any important changes they should have known about.

Mayor Kim replied he put some nonessential vacant positions which were helpful to save money. Mayor Kim stated the borough also received a pro bono attorney that wanted to assist Planning Board Attorney Chang Noh. Mayor Kim stated that had nothing to do with them because it was Planning Board procedure. Mayor Kim stated he also added in an attorney, "Raz Something", and filled in the committees for Rent Leveling Board, Board of Adjustments, Planning Board, and also the Environmental Board since it related to the Planning Board. Mayor Kim stated the former borough administrator was suing the crap out of the Board of Adjustments and they wanted to be sure everything was okay if something were to go wrong. Mayor Kim stated this was why he had to fill as many positions as possible.

Councilman Donohue thanked Mayor Kim.

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Allan Roth stated for the record, the new special attorney was Razi.

Mayor Kim thanked him and asked if there were any more questions about the consent agenda.

Councilman Shin asked if town employees were still on the Zoning Boards such as Charlie Chung and Seong Yoon who were active employees of the borough.

Mayor Kim stated it was a recommendation from the attorney.

Allan Roth repeated this was a recommendation from the Zoning Board Attorney Diane Testa as there were matters being reviewed by courts and was recommended that they stay the course with the same members.

Mayor Kim stated before, when the former administrator was an active employee, the lists never changed. When the former administrator did leave, he began to sue. Mayor Kim stated he didn't know about that and was trying to prepare for the worst situation where they could not vote anymore.

RESOLUTION 2026-49 Hiring Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer (Re: T. Son)

Councilman Min asked if this person went through proper interviews because he happened to find out that this person was someone that Mayor Kim personally introduced him to in 2024.

Mayor Kim asked what Councilman Min was trying to say and asked if he thought Mayor Kim was doing personal favors. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min had better watch what he said because they went through proper procedures. Mayor Kim stated every person that conducted the interviews agreed to go with the same person.

Councilman Donohue agreed.

Allan Roth asked Councilman Donohue who was at the interviews.

Councilman Donohue replied Chief Beck, Police Director Michael Gardner, Councilman Shin, Captain Rotundo, and himself.

Allan Roth stated that this decision was pretty clear then.

Councilman Donohue replied crystal clear.

Mayor Kim stated after the interviews it was crystal clear. Mayor Kim stated this person applied and wanted a job. Mayor Kim asked that they didn't blame the people that wanted an opportunity at the borough. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions.

RESOLUTION 2026-38 Claims

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated there were two claims on page 21. One claim was for Ruderman and Roth LLC which was for \$33,000 for November 2025. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this applied to the limit according to the resolution passed for \$390,000. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated to her understanding the payment from the year prior had already exceeded what was agreed upon by the council. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this charge really had to go on 2026.

Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano to come up and explain because Councilwoman Won-Yoon thought she was a CFO again and was talking like she knew.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she did not appreciate Mayor Kim's comment.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't appreciate Councilwoman Won-Yoon telling them how things should be, and asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon what he told her before about micromanaging. Mayor Kim told Councilwoman Won-Yoon could not tell anyone including him how things should have been.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she was talking about poor internal control.

Mayor Kim stated she could say it differently and say, "I think". Mayor Kim stated she shouldn't be telling everyone how things should be since that was how they got into trouble.

Roy Riggitano stated that bill was a part of the 2025 budget from the appropriation reserves. Roy Riggitano stated in March when they had all the bills in, if it did go over the appropriation that would be

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another deferred charge in the 2026 budget. Roy Riggitano stated they couldn't say anything at that time because they didn't know.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon replied she was talking about the resolution that the council passed.

Roy Riggitano asked if it was the one stating a limit.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon confirmed.

Mayor Kim asked if that resolution had to be presented at that time.

Roy Riggitano stated it could be presented at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated on page 22 there was a Korean interpreter. Her understanding was that the resolution stated it had to be applied to the salary ordinance – Mayor Kim interjected and stated this went to the borough administrator.

Roberta Stern stated this had been discussed earlier in an email.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated again this was not the right amount and another example of poor internal control.

Mayor Kim stated he thought Roberta Stern had explained all this and asked her to explain what was mentioned regarding pricing.

Roberta Stern asked if that was what Councilwoman Won-Yoon was saying because she missed it. Roberta Stern stated the difference was that one person was a certified court reporter in Korean. The other person was not, and this certified person was entitled to more pay because of their certification. Roberta Stern stated if this required a salary change in the ordinance it would be addressed, which was what she said earlier.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated in the current salary ordinance it read \$167.87 per session. This payment was an overpayment and stated no wonder they were having a problem.

Roberta Stern replied there you go, it was over and they would make an adjustment like they did with all the other positions that there was a change in one dollar that they wasted three meetings on.

Mayor Kim asked if Roberta Stern was saying they would have to go back to the salary ordinance.

Roberta Stern replied probably.

Allan Roth stated no, this was a contract and asked if he was correct.

Roberta Stern stated she didn't know if it was a contract, but she knew the reason was because she had a conversation with the court, and at the time the resolution included a certified reporter who was entitled to more than the regular amount the non-certified person was getting. Roberta Stern stated the difference between \$167 and \$200 of 32 and change, she didn't think would ever take them away from an appropriation and cause a problem. Roberta Stern stated if it had to be addressed it would be and was very simple.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated before she came to the meeting, she looked at Resolution 2025-294. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked Roberta Stern to please take a look at it.

Roberta Stern replied she said she would and didn't understand why it had to come up again.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anything else. Mayor Kim stated they had to make sure they followed up with the duly elected officials and asked Roberta Stern to make sure she followed up on Resolution 2025-294 and report to himself and Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Mayor Kim stated they would have to make a resolution concerning the bill.

Roberta Stern stated she would take Roy Riggitano's yes on that.

Mayor Kim stated they would do it. Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Resolution 2026-38 through Resolution 2026-58 with the exception of Resolution 2026-55, 2026-52, and 2026-50 which were struck out.

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Councilman Donohue made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kwak. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilman Donohue	Yes, and for Resolution 2026-42 he wanted to thank John Grala for his many years of service.
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes except 2026-49 which he recused. Resolution 2026-56 he voted no since they had a police chief, and 2026-58. Mayor Kim stated Resolution 2026-58 was his mayor appointments and asked why they Councilman Min was saying no to something so important. Mayor Kim asked if they wanted the Planning and Zoning Boards to be left vulnerable. Mayor Kim stated he didn't understand why he said no, and asked Councilman Min why he wanted to take out the mayor's appointment list when they had to fill in the Zoning and Planning, Rent Leveling, and Environmental Boards. Mayor Kim asked again to tell him why. Councilman Min replied he didn't have to answer him. Mayor Kim repeated he didn't have to answer him it was his vote. Mayor Kim stated it was Councilman Min's right, but he didn't understand that people voted for him and he had to represent the people and not go based off of what he wanted to do. Councilman Min stated the same thing applied to Mayor Kim and asked him not to start. Mayor Kim asked start what. Councilman Min replied whatever Mayor Kim was trying to do. Councilman Min stated whatever Councilman Min was trying to say was coming back to him twice, and stated they weren't children and was asking him. Councilman Min stated he was right and asked him to not be childish. Mayor Kim stated their votes were so important at that time because they were in trouble with the emergency appropriations. Mayor Kim stated now they were even voting no for the borough and builders remedies. Councilman Min asked the mayor to not put that on him. Mayor Kim stated it was ridiculous. Councilman Min stated it wasn't ridiculous as it was clearly stated in the letter. Mayor Kim stated if this wasn't political, he didn't know what was. Councilman Min replied it wasn't political; the facts were there. Mayor Kim said fine, if he wanted to say no it was his right that was fine. Councilman Min stated the letter stated everything and asked him to not even mention it.
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes except Resolution 2026-38 regarding the two items she mentioned on the claims list so she voted no. Resolution 2026-49 and 2026-56 she voted no because she thought they should freeze the hiring until they had the funds. Sophia Jang repeated the vote and asked if she was correct. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that was correct. Mayor Kim stated she would rather keep the town vulnerable for code enforcement. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated no, she was saying she believed they had to freeze the hiring until they came up with a solution. Mayor Kim stated the thing was this was an essential service that generated revenue that they had to provide. Mayor Kim stated he wanted Councilwoman Won-Yoon to think. Essential versus trying not to touch it. Mayor Kim stated she could say no but she was saying no because they had to cut a part timer when it could generate more than the cost of the part timer. Mayor Kim stated he just wanted them to know that.

Sophia Jang stated consent agenda Resolution 2026-38 through Resolution 2026-58 with the exception of Resolution 2026-50, 2026-52, 2026-55 was carried.

Mayor Kim asked what happened to Resolution 2026-56 and asked what Councilwoman Won-Yoon said.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she said they should freeze the hirings.

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Mayor Kim replied no and asked what her vote was. Mayor Kim asked if Councilwoman Won-Yoon voted no.

Roberta Stern replied yes, she voted no.

Mayor Kim stated that was fine and appreciated council members for making good judgements.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Lee reported an update through the Finance Committee. Councilwoman Lee stated the Finance Committee had two meetings that month with the CFO, administrator and mayor. The key objectives of these meetings were two-fold. One was to identify potential one-time revenue sources that could be included in the 2026 budget and the second was to identify expense items that could be reduced that year in a way that minimized operational dysfunction. Councilwoman Lee stated the committee was creating a plan to identify both objectives and would provide an update when they had a more defined framework in place. Councilwoman Lee stated she wanted to note that she had received several creative ideas from council members regarding potential one time revenue sources to help with the budget and would continue to take input.

Mayor Kim thanked her.

Councilman Shin reported an update through the DPW Committee. Councilman Shin stated they had experienced two snowstorms, and much more snow had fallen since previous years. Councilman Shin stated for example they expected that 100 metrics of salt was enough, but they actually had gone through 300 and had to buy more due to the snow falling more than before. Councilman Shin stated there were some complaints, but the DPW employees were working very hard. Councilman Shin stated he had lived in Palisades Park for 30 years, so he had seen a lot of snow removal in town. In the past, there were a lot of traffic accidents because of the late snow removal. Councilman Shin stated he was proud that year that the DPW employees worked very diligently and started work 30 minutes before the snow even began to fall. Councilman Shin stated he went from Palisades Park to Fort Lee and could visibly see that Palisades Park was in much better condition compared. Councilman Shin stated he knew there was a lot of snow and Palisades Park had a lot of vehicles with no space to put the snow aside. Even though the employees worked very hard there was no place to put the snow and thought that bigger cities removed the snow and relocated it to other places. Councilman Shin stated unfortunately there were no places like that in Palisades Park. He knew it was inconvenient but asked everyone to understand that the DPW was working hard.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Shin and stated the DPW worked very hard. Mayor Kim stated some residents may have felt that there was a lack of hard work, but he had seen himself the DPW worked hard and diligently. Mayor Kim stated the good news was that when the snow was bad there were no accidents because the DPW was managing the hills and roads, which he appreciated. Mayor Kim stated as Councilman Shin had mentioned, because the emergency appropriation didn't pass, there was a budget crisis, and they recommended that they figure out days that the garbage and pickups would be scheduled. Mayor Kim emphasized there couldn't be any cleanouts and was hoping they continued that with a resolution brought forth the following month.

Roberta Stern stated they had to create an ordinance, she believed, if they were going to determine – Roberta Stern stated she didn't know if it had to be through resolution or ordinance that stated the borough was not responsible for clean outs or when people were moving. Roberta Stern stated if residents left garbage on the sidewalks, they were responsible for hiring a private vendor to remove the garbage.

Allan Roth stated they didn't need an ordinance, and the current ordinance could be amended if there was one.

Roberta Stern replied she mentioned either that or an ordinance. Roberta Stern mentioned she had discussed this with Councilman Shin and concluded that the only way they were going to limit this was to designate schedules for bulk pickup as every other town had. Roberta Stern stated if someone was moving, they were not going to pick up the entire cleanout of the property.

Mayor Kim stated not anymore as they were in a budget crisis. Mayor Kim stated that would save the town money.

Roberta Stern stated whether it was a resolution or ordinance it had to be done.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Shin.

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Councilman Min stated he didn't have anything to report. Councilman Min stated residents went through rough snow days and he was thankful there weren't any power outages or water shut offs. Councilman Min stated they were entering into the coldest week of the year. Councilman Min advised everyone to stay safe.

Mayor Kim stated he extended the invitation along with Roberta Stern to any councilmembers to create ways to reduce the budget or create one time income. Mayor Kim stated they needed all the help they could get.

Councilman Kwak reported for the recreation department as every year, they were preparing for the Easter egg hunt for all the families as well as the Memorial Day Parade. Councilman Kwak thanked Joe for bringing up the cars and showing up – Councilman Kwak stated he knew he would be there for the street fair. Councilman Kwak thanked the police department as well. Councilman Kwak stated he wanted to make a note of Resolution 2026-51. Councilman Kwak commended Detective Kunz for doing so well in helping Mrs. Gentile recover her \$5,000 from a fraud case. Councilman Kwak congratulated them and stated they did a great job. Councilman Kwak stated in terms of the recreation department, because of where the borough was financially, they were going to have an uphill battle to provide great events for the community. Councilman Kwak stated this was going to be a lot harder as they would have to come up with vendors that could either help out or donate more. Councilman Kwak stated they would look for ways to cut out additional expenses in their departments, so it didn't affect residents while still providing a great event and reflect Palisades Park. Councilman Kwak stated no matter what they were going to stay resilient and take care of the families. Councilman Kwak stated in regard to the library it was a place of contentions and ideas to figure out where they needed to put things down on paper to determine what they were going to cut because of this loss. Councilman Kwak stated this was something he didn't ever want to consider and was something they had to consider as a town. Councilman Kwak stated this was something he wanted to bring and lay on the table. Councilman Kwak stated now that the emergency appropriation didn't pass, and the D.C.A had denied the boroughs request, they were in a hole. Councilman Kwak stated they had to cut where they were comfortable to cut and this was where they were at in order to save the town and the residents. Councilman Kwak stated they may lose an amenity or two for the year in order for the borough to recuperate from this. Councilman Kwak stated this was something they were working on with the department for the residents.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Kwak for all the research. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Kwak spoke with the tax assessor and tax collector to try and find out the status of tax liens of the borough. Mayor Kim stated he recommended purchasing tax liens and reselling them to make money off of it. Mayor Kim stated he didn't know if this was possible or not, but it was still a recommendation. Mayor Kim stated right now, they were trying to resolve a problem and appreciated Councilman Kwak's efforts.

Councilman Donohue stated they had a meeting with the school superintendent Carl Albano who was new to the district. Councilman Donohue stated Mayor Kim, Roberta Stern, Carl Albano, secretary to the board of education Grace Lee, Councilman Shin, and himself had a substantive meeting. After introductions they all expressed their positive interests in a relationship between the Board of Education and the borough. Councilman Donohue stated there was hope for shared services where both would benefit a true quid pro quo. Councilman Donohue stated there was a good exchange of ideas, and they planned for future meetings. Many of the ideas discussed at this meeting pertained to revenue enhancement that would help the schools and the borough. Councilman Donohue stated Carl Albano was not receptive to some of the ideas, but they were still in the early stages. Councilman Donohue stated some of his ideas came from his experience as an administrator. Both the Board of Education and the borough were in financial distress so they needed to come up with essential remedies and would continue to do so. The meeting with Carl Albano was a good start.

Mayor Kim stated it was a very productive meeting and thanked Councilman Donohue. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Donohue had done his analysis and due diligence to establish a relationship with the Board of Education with verification from the CFO. Mayor Kim stated every year they paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Board of Education. Mayor Kim stated there was property management, property ownership, and rents that didn't get paid. Mayor Kim stated there were police officers that had been serving the school system for over thirty years while the borough was understaffed. Mayor Kim stated the good news was that Carl Albano really liked the police officer that had been placed in the school, but this officer was needed on the road as they were understaffed, and \$120,000 salary was going to the school. Mayor Kim stated he appreciated Councilman Donohue for working on ways to minimize expenditures for the Board of Education because they were in a budget deficit because they didn't pass the appropriation.

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Councilman Donohue stated he gave Councilman Kwak an idea he discovered by accident because he was a principal which could be a potential revenue stream for the Board of Education. Councilman Donohue stated the idea was a bit controversial but sometimes they had to take risks to make money.

Mayor Kim stated at least he was trying and thanked Councilman Donohue.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she was leading the Environmental Commission, and she saw there were seven members but she wasn't sure if they had ever met. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this was going to be challenging for her, but she was going to try to contact the members so that they could figure out what kind of things they used, and what fees they had. Councilwoman Won-Yoon hoped she could have something to report at the next meeting.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilwoman Won-Yoon and stated he knew this was a new committee and she would do a good job. Mayor Kim asked her not to forget that it went to every council member, and to perform the duties of the committee and not micromanage. Secondly, whatever she learned she had to consult with either Roberta Stern or himself, whichever her heart desired. Thirdly, any pertinent employee information had to be shared with the governing body because that was what the committee was all about. Mayor Kim stated it wasn't a council of one but of six. Mayor Kim thanked Councilwoman Won-Yoon and asked to move on.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Allan Roth did not have anything to report.

Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth was going to create a safety net to address the D.C.A's concerns.

Allan Roth stated that was correct and he was going to offer to meet with them.

Mayor Kim stated he liked Councilwoman Lee's idea because they had due diligent to find out how, and where there was a problem if there was one. Mayor Kim stated while they waited, they still wanted to create a safety net to make sure allegedly it didn't happen again, so he appreciated it.

BA REPORT

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated she had already covered everything at least once that night and didn't want to be repetitive, but she hoped going forward the council members took their position to heart because they took an oath when they got elected to uphold the laws of the state and the town and to not disregard that oath.

Mayor Kim thanked her.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Beck thanked them for the appointment of Rabbi Joel Friedman.

Mayor Kim asked if the Rabbi was there.

Chief Beck confirmed he was and asked Rabbi Joel Friedman to come up.

Mayor Kim introduced Rabbi Joel Friedman and stated he was in addition to the Police Chaplains.

Chief Beck stated the county prosecutor introduced him to Rabbi Joel Friedman who was also the prosecutor's office police chaplain, as well as the sheriff's department police chaplain. Chief Beck stated they had an important meeting with Rabbi Friedman who they discussed many objectives that they'd like to work on such as officer resiliency, and strategies to support officers and community members. Chief Beck stated he thought they would find Rabbi Friedman would be an asset to the municipality of Palisades Park as well as the police department. Chief Beck introduced Rabbi Friedman and asked him to come up.

Rabbi Joel Friedman stated it was a privilege to be there that evening. Rabbi Friedman stated he served as a rabbi and a teacher preacher for the Bergen County Prosecutors Office as well as the Sheriff's Office for over 20 years since 2006. Rabbi Friedman stated he thought chaplaincy was important especially for police work and the tasks they did on a daily basis. Rabbi Friedman stated he had a good working relationship with the chief who worked to keep them safe every day. One thing Rabbi Friedman learned as a rabbi was that it didn't matter what title they had or what religion they practiced, they all had a heart and were all human. Rabbi Friedman stated they all had obstacles and challenges and when they had

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someone they could trust and speak to it went a long way. Rabbi Friedman stated he was willing to take on the position to serve as a rabbi for the police department as well as for all the residents in the township. Rabbi Friedman shouted out the mayor and stated the work he did resulted not only in the township but the county. Joel Friedman stated the mayor was hands on, a good listener, and he wanted to shout him out for his great work. Rabbi Friedman stated one thing about Palisades Park was that it wasn't only the people who lived there in the Jewish faith, but people who worked there or people who didn't. Rabbi Friedman stated if something happened to him like a hate crime, an antisemitic attack, or anything related to that he thought it was important to have that. Rabbi Friedman blessed them all and stated to keep up the good work and would conclude with that. Rabbi Friedman stated when he was working as a teacher preacher, he learned how to be a better faith leader. Rabbi Friedman stated it started with the youth and success. Rabbi Friedman stated he was sure they earned their success and it was apart of the "three L's" which was listen to what others had to say, learn about other people, community and religion. Rabbi Friedman stated they could agree to disagree, but they had to do it in the best way possible, and he thought that a faith leader could aid in that.

Mayor Kim welcomed Rabbi Friedman to Palisades Park and stated there were a respectably amount of Jewish communities that were ecstatic that he was a apart of the borough and representing the Jewish residents.

Rabbi Friedman thanked Mayor Kim and stated if any residents needed counseling or guidance or anything he was always available.

Mayor Kim thanked him again.

Chief Beck reported the call volume for 2026 so far had been 1,700 calls for service which equated to 63 calls every 24 hours. Chief Beck stated the officers were handling about 63 calls per day which was not an anomaly because when they did their stats for the year prior it showed about 64 calls per day. Chief Beck stated it was only the 27th day of the month and for a small police department they were resilient and handled a high call volume. Chief Beck stated it was impressive seeing officers could handle such a high call volume and did it so well. For community outreach the police department was committed to continuing enhancing. Chief Beck stated they recently had the Korean American War Veterans at the borough and hosted a tour. Chief Beck stated they were very nice gentlemen, and it was a great time. Chief Beck explained they had lunch together and hosted discussions. Chief Beck stated the most memorable portion was that a 93-year-old war veteran stopped in to get help on how to use the parking meters. They had Officer Lee take him outside to learn how to use the meter and then invited him to lunch with the rest of the veterans. Chief Beck stated it was a great time, and they spent two hours together and the man was actually high up in the military. Chief Beck stated he hoped they saw the officers engaging with the community and trying to be the branch to bring the community together the best they could. Chief Beck stated officers were going to participate in the polar bear plunge in Seaside Heights on February 28th. Chief Beck stated on the website they were asking for sponsors or donations and the officers had fun jumping in the freezing ocean for charity. Chief Beck stated they carpooled together and had a great time and brought back pictures. Chief Beck stated they did it for the charity for the Special Olympics and they would see that the community in the Palisades Park Police Department itself was wholesome. Chief Beck put out a letter to teachers, parents and guardians of the community that on the 19th of that month they signed a new law regarding E-bikes. Chief Beck explained the new laws to the E-bikes required licensing of over 15 years old, insurance, and a whole bunch of other new requirements. Chief Beck stated there was a six-month grace period before the department could enforce this so people could be educated on the law as well as banning out of state sales. Chief Beck stated they couldn't order from out of state into New Jersey and after he researched more, he learned this was so dealers could educate the consumer also. Chief Beck stated this went to all parents and guardians so they could try and make the community safer. Chief Beck stated he understood the argument on both sides for the E-bikes, but they could agree if a child wasn't hurt or hit in town it was a good thing. Chief Beck stated in town they had seen a lot of accidents occur on E-bikes and it was always worse when it was someone under fifteen. Chief Beck stated that since they last met, officers had made ten arrests, six stemmed from domestic violence incidents involving weapons possession, and criminal sexual contact. Chief Beck stated because it was domestic violence he wasn't going to discuss it. Chief Beck stated Officer Saint-Hillaire was active and had a sharp eye. Chief Beck stated Officer Saint-Hillaire was a big guy but had a calm, polite demeanor. Chief Beck stated Officer Saint-Hillaire caught a guy smoking meth on Second Street with the doors open, which was a little out of the ordinary. When Officer Saint-Hillaire approached the man, he caught him in the act and arrested him. Chief Beck stated that showed officers were active and finding things. Palisades Park was right next to the George Washington Bridge, and anything could happen. Chief Beck stated that was a serious substance to have on the street and it was not a resident of Palisades Park but a repeat offender from Long Island. Chief Beck stated nonetheless he was arrested and charged. Chief Beck didn't have anything else to report.

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Mayor Kim asked the Police Director Michael Gardner if he was going to make a report. Mayor Kim stated he would ask both the director and chief. Mayor Kim stated there were accidents that were occurring on Fifth and Sixth Street and the speed humps were ready to go. Mayor Kim stated they were waiting for the weather to get warmer to install.

Chief Beck agreed and stated it would be the best idea at that point.

Mayor Kim asked about Roff Avenue and asked what research told him.

Chief Beck stated the study had been done and they had it and Roberta Stern had the report. Based on the recommendations they would be enacted, he thought the DPW was occupied at the moment. Chief Beck stated he had spoken about that with Roberta Stern and Hal Simoff.

Mayor Kim asked how the street became a one way and asked if there was a resolution or ordinance from the former governing body.

Roberta Stern replied no, and she wasn't there but she could say based on the report the DOT sent since Roff Avenue intersected with a state highway, their regulations and signage had to be replaced and put back the way it was intended by their original determination which was a two-way street. Roberta Stern stated it had been a bit cold, so she hadn't been anxious to go out to see with the Chief. Roberta Stern stated they would walk it and see what needed to be replaced per Hal Simoff's report and then notices would be prepared for all residents so there wasn't confusion.

Mayor Kim thanked Roberta Stern and congratulated the police director.

Police Director Michael Gardner stated he wanted to thank the special officers and traffic officers who were hired for ticket enforcement. Director Gardner stated given the situation of the snowstorm they reached out to the DPW and their personnel were tied up with plowing. Director Gardner stated the parking kiosks had to be dug out so the officers grabbed a bunch of shovels and went around town cleaning out every parking kiosks to be operational which hadn't been done in the past. Director Gardner stated the moral in the police department was getting better every day and he thanked them every day. Director Gardner stated they were still having some issues with the parking kiosks related to them just powering down and didn't know if it was due to the snowstorm. They ordered additional batteries and chargers and if something came up, they would act right away and report it to the company. Director Gardner stated they were brand new machines, and they wanted them to be working 100%. Director Gardner asked that any issues were brought to them so they could bring it to the company. Director Gardner stated he was proud of the officers who were working hard and responding to a number of calls with the chief and captain overseeing the daily operations. Director Gardner stated Lieutenant Beck had a bum leg but came in. Chief Beck plowed out the traffic cars that were plowed in by the Shoprite alongside the traffic officers. Director Gardner stated they were one big family in the police department, worked together, and looked forward to the accreditation. Director Gardner commended officers and stated everyone was working as one which was why they were moving ahead. Director Gardner stated if there were any questions he would answer.

Mayor Kim asked how many car accidents there were during the storm.

Director Gardner stated the one day there were 15 accidents, but he didn't have a number for the recent snowstorm.

Chief Beck stated there were two accidents.

Director Gardner stated the one day there was freezing rain there were 13 or 14 accidents in a couple hours.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted everyone to know that there were two council members who denied the vote for the rehiring of the police director. Mayor Kim thought the other four council members appreciated the comptroller and prosecutors report that stated there was too much political involvement from the former borough administrator, and the governing body. Mayor Kim stated if the police director was not there, then the governing body would have to get involved and he was glad they weren't involved in politics or police matters. Mayor Kim stated he was glad there was a police director to protect the governing body from that.

ENGINEER REPORTS

Carl O'Brian introduced himself as the new engineer from Colliers Engineering. Carl O'Brian stated for the past month they had been meeting with Roberta Stern to go over a lot of the projects in town. Most of

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it had to deal with DOT Grants, Community Development Grants, and Open Space Grants which were the three primary. Carl O'Brian stated some of them were going into construction right after the snow melted and the other was going to design to meet the aggressive schedule of the DOT. Carl O'Brian stated they had one that should have been done shortly but they had to verify with the DOT if the design packet previously done was ready to go to bid. Carl O'Brian stated they wanted to get it done before the April deadline as it had to be awarded by April. Carl O'Brian stated they would be working closely with the borough administrator, CFO, and borough attorney to go over items. They already reviewed the sewer ordinance that was sent there way and would be dealing with Allan Roth's office to go over the changes they wanted to make as well. Carl O'Brian stated moving forward he planned to issue a written monthly engineering report which would be apart of the packets. Carl O'Brian stated they submitted the reports a week before the meeting so that it could be included in the meeting packets. Carl O'Brian explained they would list out all the projects they had, the status of them, and if action was needed by council to move forward. Carl O'Brian stated they would also include recommendations for awards, and any incoming grant idea they were looking to go after. Carl O'Brian stated this was stuff they had to do like tiers storm water, educational outreach, council training on stormwater, etc. Carl O'Brian stated this would be a dynamic form and everything they dealt with would go through the borough administrator and go to the council. Carl O'Brian stated that was the long and short of it.

Mayor Kim stated at least they could put a name to the face.

Roberta Stern stated a name to the face, but she wanted to mention that the responsiveness of Colliers had been 100%.

Mayor Kim stated it was Roberta Stern's recommendation.

Roberta Stern thanked him and stated she stood by it. Roberta Stern stated she thought it was going to be a very good year and they would finish things up and get started on new things. Roberta Stern stated Carl O'Brian would come up with proposals on the DOT grants and the one he was referring to was the 2024 fiscal grant that the borough almost lost. Roberta Stern stated they were able to get an extension on it and Carl O'Brian would finalize. They had already approved going to bid on that, but the design had not been approved by the DOT at that time which Carl O'Brian had been following up on. Roberta Stern thought going forward the report Carl O'Brian was mentioning was going to be presented at the Work Session. Roberta Stern stated Carl O'Brian would be present for the Work Sessions except for the last one he couldn't make.

Mayor Kim asked for an update regarding the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Street project because the residents had been waiting patiently.

Roberta Stern stated they didn't do it during Christmas they put it off because of the parking situation. Roberta Stern stated Carl O'Brian could go into it, but they did have a meeting.

Mayor Kim stated when the birds started chirping and the flowers started blooming.

Carl O'Brian stated they met with the contractor and walked the site with him to discuss the drainage aspects, sidewalks, paving, curbs, the whole project.

Roberta Stern stated they also went over the staging of the equipment.

Carl O'Brian stated they also sent a letter requesting before the snow came, after but it was the second week of February.

Roberta Stern stated she thought the third week.

Carl O'Brian stated whenever the snow melted, they would be out there. The contractor was ready to go, and Carl O'Brian had worked with him in the past.

Roberta Stern stated he was a great contractor.

Mayor Kim stated there were two things he wanted to request in front of the governing body and also wanted to mention Councilman Shin. Mayor Kim stated they were looking to install parking kiosks at Commercial Avenue because at the time it looked like the wild west. Mayor Kim stated the businesses there used the public parking like it was theirs even though they had garages. Mayor Kim stated the reason they couldn't address it was because there were no parking meter kiosks and he knew the roads were really bad. Mayor Kim stated this was the second phase that Roberta Stern was looking into for Commercial Avenue and they just passed around the residential areas. They had to focus on Commercial Avenue where King Sauna was and the other businesses. Mayor Kim asked if they could still install

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parking kiosks there to generate revenue and put things in order when the black top was a mess. Mayor Kim stated this was something they should discuss urgently with the DPW because it was another way to generate revenue and created a proper, amicable opportunity for residents and customers to park. Mayor Kim stated at that time no one could park and it was very territorial. Mayor Kim stated he also wanted him to work on something else. Mayor Kim asked if Roberta Stern remembered the guy he had met regarding the pump which was a building department member. Mayor Kim stated he was an old gentlemen.

Roberta Stern stated he was the plumbing inspector.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted Roberta Stern to talk to the plumbing inspector because he had a lot of good ideas one that included expanding the seepage tank. Mayor Kim stated they were having flooding issues, and they could possibly expand it. Mayor Kim stated the plumbing inspector was willing to work with Roberta Stern and Carl O'Brian to address ways to reduce the flooding. One of the reasons was because of the old, outdated drainage systems. Mayor Kim stated on 1st, 2nd and 4th Street, unbelievably when new duplexes were made in a ditch there was no drainage. Mayor Kim stated he couldn't believe that happened and would appreciate it if Carl O'Brian worked with the building department.

Carl O'Brian stated he met with the building department, and Planning and Zoning Boards the week prior and discussed everything with them including the process between the staff and inspectors.

Mayor Kim stated anything they could do to reduce the flooding and even offered to change the ordinance.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated regarding the work needing to be done, if they mentioned the work could be done in February.

Carl O'Brian stated the contractor sent a letter in requesting not to start yet due to the bad weather.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked how long they expected it to take.

Carl O'Brian replied a total of two to three months based on the size of the project.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated some residents had been waiting for years.

Carl O'Brian stated they would push them.

Mayor Kim stated they were doing good business and if they had been waiting for years it was just being changed.

Carl O'Brian stated this wasn't a new kind of project for the contractor and he had the machinery, equipment, and manpower to do it. Carl O'Brian stated it was his job to make sure the contractor did the work according to their plans and specs.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions and thanked Carl O'Brian.

Councilman Shin stated there were several major projects going on in town like the Bellview Place parking lot, Broad Avenue beautification, Columbus Park dog park, swimming pool splash pad, and the repaving of streets. Councilman Shin stated since this was the first meeting of the year, they needed further updates on projects, not to him but to the residents. Councilman Shin asked if Carl O'Brian could provide a report in February.

Carl O'Brian confirmed he could as soon as he received it.

Councilman Kwak stated commented on the current situation and financial status. Councilman Kwak stated Councilwoman Lee asked back in January, and he wanted to ask again what the current status was in terms of searching for new grants for that year and bond ratings. Councilman Kwak asked how that affected the town to get projects going because the emergency appropriation was not passed.

Mayor Kim stated that was a good question and he was just about to ask that. Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano what the damages were.

Roy Riggitano stated as far as the grants were concerned there would be no negative effect, and as far as the bond rating they were still making all payments on time including principal interest and didn't see any issues a well.

Mayor Kim stated that was very reassuring.

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Roberta Stern stated one of the first things they were going to do the following month was introduce another bond for the road projects because if the DOT approved the design for the 1.4-million-dollar project on Broad Avenue they had to have the money there. There were also two or three smaller things.

Mayor Kim stated he was about to mention as part of his report that on Fifth Street towards Ridgefield there was a ramp going to Route 46. Mayor Kim stated that whole block was a mess and was an emergency that had to be addressed.

Roberta Stern stated that it was the one and it was a small block.

Mayor Kim repeated it was really bad and was a priority.

Roberta Stern stated that they would be in the bond ordinance.

Roy Riggitano stated he would provide the bond details to Carl O'Brian.

Carl O'Brian stated he would work with them.

Roy Riggitano stated as far as the bond rating, it shouldn't have had an effect but may down the road.

Mayor Kim asked what would.

Roy Riggitano stated the bond rating, but it wouldn't be immediate. They would want to see the deferred charge and what happened. The remedy that the clerk, attorney, and himself tried to do but was defeated.

Mayor Kim asked if the bond rating would be affected.

Roy Riggitano replied it could be, but they didn't know yet. The financial statement was in a good position.

Mayor Kim reminded the borough administrator to follow up with Gordon Johnson to request an update on the crosswalks for Grand Avenue as it was dangerous. Mayor Kim stated they wanted to start when the weather got warming. Mayor Kim stated as they knew the administration tried to get a special million-dollar grant from Josh Gottheimer. Mayor Kim stated this was to fix the sewer lines as Palisades Park had many sewer lines broken and run down. Some streets didn't even have a sewer line connecting streets. Mayor Kim stated there also was a problem with a main branch of the sewer leading out into the river. Mayor Kim stated he believed he only provided ten approvals and was hoping because of the diligent work he had performed, they received the support and money. Mayor Kim asked for Roberta Stern to keep them posted.

Roberta Stern commented that would have to be a part of the bond.

Mayor Kim replied he knew but it was a million dollars. Mayor Kim stated they had meetings with Councilman Shin, Roberta Stern, William Northgrave the attorney, Scott Krumholz and himself. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to make a comment regarding Scott Krumholz as they could see he wasn't present at meetings anymore. Mayor Kim stated he worked somewhere else and he was present at the Sine Die Meeting. Mayor Kim stated the governing body felt he didn't perform his duties, so they excused him and reformed. Mayor Kim stated when they had this meeting they also met with a very rich philanthropist that Mayor Kim knew. He was interested in provided up to eight million dollars to create a recreation center. Mayor Kim stated this was very serious because the town never had and was lacking a recreation center. Mayor Kim stated they needed this to show they were reforming and were a proud town providing essential services. At that time, they were just providing a presentation of their proposal, and he had been told from the philanthropist that he was about to get married, so Mayor Kim was giving him a break. Mayor Kim stated he was pressuring him to get back to them and provide a result. Mayor Kim stated hopefully they would get the eight million dollars that year.

Councilwoman Lee asked who it was.

Mayor Kim replied it was a philanthropist he had known through organizations and came to the borough because he appreciated a woman that he wasn't going to name at that time, but she spoke on Korean American issues. Mayor Kim stated this woman believed the town needed a recreation center because Mayor Kim mentioned it a long time ago. Mayor Kim stated the man had a prior record of donating millions. Mayor Kim hoped they would get the money. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Kim stated Joe Fallazzo was not happy, so he was going to speak first but he was happy with the police department.

Joseph Fallazzo stated he had no problem with the police department. Mr. Fallazzo stated they had a lot of problems by the school regarding the last snowfall. Mr. Fallazzo stated he didn't know what to say because they never had these problems before. There was non-existent parking because the snow wasn't removed and the problem was that he didn't see the town had any large pieces of equipment that usually went out to do this kind of work.

Mayor Kim asked if he was saying the borough didn't have large equipment to scoop the snow.

Mr. Fallazzo replied the larger equipment and loaders they usually went out in to pick up the snow, put it in the truck, and take it away. Mr. Fallazzo stated that didn't happen.

Roberta Stern stated normally that was a separate company that the borough may hire.

Mr. Fallazzo replied no, these were owned equipment and he had been a resident for a long time.

Roberta Stern stated she was surprised that Kenny Bryuno didn't say anything about that.

Mr. Fallazzo stated he understood there was a big change at the DPW, but they had to keep what they had because when they had to get children into the school it was ridiculous. Mr. Fallazzo stated the number of problems they had with the parents dropping off and picking up their kids was unfathomable.

Mayor Kim asked what school they were referring to.

Mr. Fallazzo stated his problem was snow removal at Notre Dame. Mr. Fallazzo stated he was after his own people because there was no way on getting onto Central Boulevard.

Roberta Stern stated she witnessed that herself.

Mr. Fallazzo stated he had to get the kids into the schools and then get rid of the parents and then bring back the people to remove the snow, but it wasn't working.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to contact the DPW, in which she agreed. Mayor Kim stated he did remember what Mr. Fallazzo had mentioned about the trucks removing the snow.

Roberta Stern stated she had done that before but not for the borough.

Mayor Kim asked her to get the information.

Mr. Fallazzo stated he had a smaller unit to use to clean equipment and a lot of changes happened at the school that year. Mr. Fallazzo stated they were trying to get certain permissions that were always given so it was a ring around.

Ernst Beerley stated he had three things. One was regarding the complaint made the week prior about the ice being on the sidewalks which he checked up on and learned it was solved. Ernst Beerley stated he agreed the police department was doing a superb job and he didn't know why they needed a director.

Mayor Kim replied he wanted to give him an answer but wanted him to finish first.

Ernst Beerley stated the police department was doing a great job and asked if they were the ones asking for a director or if the governing body was deciding on appointing one.

Mayor Kim stated there were multiple reasons why he believed as well as the four other council members believed they needed a director. Mayor Kim stated they had been haunted by a very damning comptroller report four years prior and prosecutors report concurring there was too much political involvement from the prior borough administrator and prior governing body. Mayor Kim stated this created a hostile environment, uncertainty, and a lot of lawsuits when it came time for promotions. Mayor Kim stated they considered making a director in charge would create a form of bias, amicable, impartial judgment. Mayor Kim stated when they had to reprimand a police officer it got into a very technical situation. If the officer was suspended for a certain amount of days, it came to the governing body, if the director wasn't there. If

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the governing body spoke up, they would expect a lawsuit, and he wanted a professional who would take the hit and be responsible. Mayor Kim stated the director had introduced a fleet management which created a great way of exchanging borough vehicles without buying new vehicles which hurt the budget. If there was an accident, they could get the vehicle replaced. Another thing the director was partaking in voluntarily was supervising the traffic officers and special officers which had previously been done by John Grala. Mayor Kim stated as previously appreciated before by Councilman Donohue, John Grala retired. The director was going to take the role and responsibilities without increasing his salary. Mayor Kim stated there even was a reduction of \$5,000 from his salary to show they needed the director. Mayor Kim stated the director was working hard and took the pay cut which he appreciated. Mayor Kim stated third, if there were lawsuits, he didn't want the governing body to go to depositions. Mayor Kim stated he had eight lawsuits and he wanted to protect the governing body. Mayor Kim stated in order to do that he had to get a director in.

Ernst Beerley stated he came from a manufacturing background who was responsible for maintenance. Ernst Beerley stated he was having a hard time with the \$350,000 for a pump for the pool. Ernst Beerley stated they all knew he was against the pool in the first place and thought it costed money. Ernst Beerley stated he thought it was a great thing for the students to have jobs in the summertime but \$350,000 was for more than a pump.

Roberta Stern stated it wasn't for a pump and was referred to as a pump.

Mayor Kim stated it was a whole unit.

Roberta Stern stated it was inside of the whole building being replaced with an entire new filter system which meant every filter inside would be replaced with four more efficient units. These people had built pools all over New Jersey and New York. Roberta Stern stated the highest bid was for \$580,000 and the lowest bid was \$330,000, which was theirs. Roberta Stern stated it wasn't a pump and invited Ernst Beerley to come see it.

Mayor Kim stated Roberta Stern had never done pools before and neither did he. Mayor Kim stated Roberta Stern got the specialists at less than \$500,00. Mayor Kim stated that they all decided this was off the table and they had to figure out how to reduce the expenditure by pulling from the library and Board of Education. Mayor Kim stated this was to make sure residents taxes didn't increase.

Ernst Beerley stated there was lots to be sold that were approved for building. Ernst Beerley stated there was a building behind his block that he had attended the meeting for and had to be torn down but had not yet.

Mayor Kim asked what board.

Ernst Beerley stated the Board of Adjustments. The building hadn't been torn down for four months and stated it was located on a dead end, but he didn't know the street name.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't know what he was talking about.

Ernst Beerley stated he would let him know. Ernst Beerley stated in order to produce revenue they should be moving on getting the people to produce the structure right away to get taxes. Ernst Beerley stated at the top of the hill there had been a giant empty lot that had been idle for three years.

Mayor Kim stated he understood Ernst Beerley was trying to say there were lots the municipality owned.

Roberta Stern replied no, and if he got her an address, she could check for him, but it could be engineering that needed to be done and they hadn't done the work yet. Roberta Stern stated if the engineering plans hadn't been approved by the engineer they couldn't go forward because there was a process. Roberta Stern agreed four months was a little longer and would check if he got her the address.

Mayor Kim stated if it was private property, as long as they complied with the ordinance, they could just leave it empty and pay the taxes as part of their rights. Mayor Kim stated if there wasn't long grass or dangerous things happening it was a prerogative of the landowner.

Ernst Beerley stated the house was still standing.

Roberta Stern asked Ernst Beerley to get her the address.

Ernst Beerley agreed to do so.

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Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public participation portion and return to the Regular Meeting.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue.

All joined in favor.


ADJOURN

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Kwak made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Donohue.

All joined in favor.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC
Borough Clerk