

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

Work Session
of the Mayor & Council
January 20, 2026

Borough of Palisades Park
Work Session of the Mayor and Council
January 20, 2026

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

STATEMENT:

This is a Work Session 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 KWAK.

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

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
Sine Die and Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	January 5, 2026

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang informed the Mayor and Council that the minutes for December 26, 2025 and January 5, 2026 would be ready the following week because the Clerk's Office had a lack of employees.

Mayor Kim repeated that the meeting minutes would be ready for the next meeting. Mayor Kim asked council members to review the minutes and contact Sophia Jang or Roberta Stern with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 2026-1	Amending Chapter 247 "Sewers"
ORDINANCE 2026-2	Creating Article XXVI to be Entitled "Borough Clerk" in Chapter 48.: "Officers and Employees"

DISCUSSION (TO BE CONSENT)

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

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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)
ORDINANCE 2026-1	Amending Chapter 247 "Sewers"

Allan Roth explained this was a new ordinance to increase and establish a new cost of sewer work. Allan Roth stated he had a question for Mayor Kim. Allan Roth stated he knew they wanted to pass this through based on a discussion he had with Mayor Kim regarding additional affluence that went into the sewer system. Allan Roth stated that would be considered sewer fees and was not a part of contemplation of the ordinance.

Mayor Kim confirmed.

Allan Roth asked if he wanted to pass the ordinance through a first and second reading first and establish the sewer fees separately with the Chief Financial Officer, or if he wanted to hold the ordinance and do it all at once.

Mayor Kim stated to correct him if he was wrong and asked if the number of steps were equal. Mayor Kim stated if they passed it on the first and second reading, that meant the third month from that date, they would think about the sewer drains. Mayor Kim stated that versus waiting for Allan Roth to get it done. Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth if he could get it done by the Regular Meeting the following week to include sewer fees.

Allan Roth stated he didn't know that answer because he would have to see what the average rate was.

Mayor Kim stated he understood Allan Roth needed more time than a week. Mayor Kim stated if they did the ordinance the following month then they could just do it twice instead of three times. Mayor Kim asked if Allan Roth agreed.

Allan Roth stated that was fine and stated he would be able to get it done for the following months meeting. Allan Roth stated he needed to obtain a survey and speak to the Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to remove this ordinance from the agenda.

Roberta Stern stated he also had to speak to the engineer.

Allan Roth replied the engineer didn't have anything to do with the sewer fees. Allan Roth stated he did need the engineer but needed the gentlemen in the corner with the money.

Mayor Kim stated they would hold Ordinance 2026-1 until the following month.

Allan Roth thanked Mayor Kim.

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ORDINANCE 2026-2

Creating Article XXVI to be Entitled “Borough Clerk” in Chapter 48.: “Officers and Employees”

Allan Roth explained this ordinance was the establishment of a Borough Clerk. Allan Roth stated for whatever reason, the borough had never had an ordinance establishing the position of Borough Clerk even though it was statutory.

Mayor Kim replied unbelievable.

Allan Roth stated this was just establishing the position in an ordinance.

Roberta Stern stated they had an ordinance for the Deputy Clerk position but not the Borough Clerk.

Allan Roth stated his best guess was that the borough always relied on the statute, and not as part of a borough ordinance. Allan Roth stated he had always seen, and always thought it was in there, but it wasn't and he had never seen a town without an ordinance establishing the position.

Mayor Kim stated he understood and was glad that the administrator figured this out in upkeeping the ordinances. Mayor Kim stated he appreciated it because Borough Clerk was one of the most important positions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated there were other positions that were not addressed in the borough code.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to give an example.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer, Superintendent of Department of Public Works, and Borough Clerk.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon repeated and stated she thought this was intentionally not addressed because these roles were statutory positions, and if the borough established the positions in an ordinance there could be a divide. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that was the reason she thought the positions had previously not been addressed.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat the reason.

Roberta Stern stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon – Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat the reason the borough purposely didn't add the position to the ordinance.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she thought this was a statutory position which meant the New Jersey statutes described all of the roles and responsibilities. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated if the borough defined the positions in the borough code, then there could be potential discrepancies.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't understand and asked why there would be discrepancies.

Allan Roth began to explain the way it worked but then asked Roberta Stern if she wanted to finish what she was saying.

Roberta Stern stated she was just going to elaborate on what she thought Councilwoman Won-Yoon's reasoning was. Roberta Stern explained Councilwoman Won-Yoon thought the reason the borough was creating the ordinance was because they had not had the statutory positions in the borough code. Roberta Stern stated that was not what prompted this and explained when they took the Deputy Clerk out of the salary ordinance, they realized they didn't have the Clerks role in the ordinance.

Mayor Kim stated he understood the explanation, but he still didn't understand.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated for example a part of the ordinance read, “The Clerk is a Clerk of the Council.” but the statute read, “The Clerk was the Secretary to the Governing Body.” Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated this was the difference, and how they wanted to interpret that difference she would leave up to the council.

Mayor Kim stated not exactly, you don’t leave it up – then Mayor Kim stopped and asked if she meant the attorney.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon confirmed she meant the attorney.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to continue.

Allan Roth stated in this form of government, the Clerk was not the Secretary to the Mayor, but to the Council. Allan Roth stated the mayor was a member of the Governing Body solely for the purpose of the Governing Body to break ties and operate the meeting. Allan Roth stated his recommendation was that they accepted the ordinance as drafted. Allan Roth stated another thing was that the ordinance was an amplification and acceptance of the statute. Allan Roth stated they could go more but couldn’t go less than what was required in statutory terms. Allan Roth repeated he had never seen a municipality that did not have the Clerk’s position in their ordinance. The assessor was sometimes put in the ordinance, and sometimes not along with the CFO. Allan Roth stated as for the Superintendent of the DPW they absolutely had to have it in the borough ordinance and should establish one.

Roberta Stern commented when they had one.

Allan Roth stated because there was a difference between the Superintendent of the DPW and a Superintendent of DPW by statute.

Councilman Min went to ask a question – Mayor Kim asked him to wait a second.

Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon said there seemed to be discrepancies in the verbatim verbiage as to what defined the responsibilities of the Borough Clerk in the New Jersey statute versus what was created in the ordinance. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon mentioned the ordinance read the Borough Clerk served the Governing Body, but the statute read the Borough Clerk was the Secretary of the Council. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon who the Governing Body was.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the Governing Body was the Mayor and Council.
Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked him to take a look at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-12.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat the statute number.

Roberta Stern stated nobody said it had to be the exact same thing.

Allan Roth stated he wasn’t there to argue, but the statute read, “The Borough Clerk shall serve as Secretary to the Council and the Secretary to the Municipal Corporation”. Allan Roth stated he was at a loss because Councilwoman Won-Yoon was talking about a wording thing.

Mayor Kim stated that didn’t mean the Borough Clerk didn’t have to serve him anymore.

Allan Roth began to speak but Mayor Kim interjected and stated they were still talking and the Council could lower their hands. Mayor Kim stated it was governing body versus council members which was Councilwoman Won-Yoon’s problem. Mayor Kim asked if he was correct.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated that was only one example.

Mayor Kim asked for another example.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon replied that she didn’t study the ordinance that much, but she was trying to understand why they defined the role instead of just adopting the New Jersey state statute.

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Allan Roth stated again, as he had mentioned to the mayor about something else, it was just his wording and was nomenclature. Allan Roth stated the statute also stated “Municipal Corporation.”

Councilman Min went to ask a question – Mayor Kim interjected and asked Councilman Min to just give him a second.

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

Councilwoman Won-Yoon confirmed she was.

Councilman Min stated N.J.S.A. 40A: 9-133 read the Clerk was statutorily required to serve as the Secretary to the Governing Body. Councilman Min stated Palisades Park was a borough formation, so they all were the Governing Body.

Mayor Kim stated they were the Governing Body which consisted of the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Min stated he thought putting Secretary to the Council on the ordinance was just narrowing down the Clerk’s role. Councilman Min stated excluding all of the differences in wording, it was pretty much a conflict of the state statute.

Allan Roth stated he disagreed, and stated it was literally a minor change to the ordinance, and he could literally just change “Governing Body” to “Council”.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed with the borough attorney but since it was a Work Session, they should consider copying the New Jersey state statute verbatim if that was what it was going to take to please the council members. Mayor Kim stated he agreed with the attorney that they were talking about “potato, potahto”.

Allan Roth stated he had no problem making the changes and if there were any further changes that was not just about changing wording, like duties, he needed to know which may have facilitated a reintroduction.

Councilman Min stated based on his studies there were a couple of issues with the ordinance such as the Alcohol Beverage Control regulations.

Mayor Kim questioned A.B.C.

Councilman Min stated the ordinance read “the Clerk was the Inspector of the A.B.C.”

Mayor Kim asked what number he was referring to.

Roberta Stern commented that she thought they took that out.

Mayor Kim asked what it was.

Roberta Stern replied it was one of the items she discussed with the Clerk and thought they had removed it.

Allan Roth stated it was 142:3-1G.

Councilman Min read again that the Clerk was the Inspector of the A.B.C., and commented there was an A.B.C Board. Councilman Min asked when the Clerk became an inspector.

Roberta Stern stated she spoke with Sophia Jang, and they knew that Sophia Jang didn’t do that and thought it was already taken out.

Mayor Kim repeated they already knew about it but didn’t take it out.

Roberta Stern confirmed that was correct.

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Mayor Kim replied that was fine, and to just take it out.

Councilman Min stated he would reach out to Allan Roth.

Allan Roth stated he was available.

Mayor Kim asked if there was anything else they should all know.

Councilman Min stated they just received the information.

Mayor Kim stated that there were only two things, small changes. Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth just had to change it before Tuesday, and stated there was no problem.

Allan Roth asked if council members could just shoot him an email so that he could make the appropriate changes. Allan Roth stated he would be available for discussion except Thursday midafternoon to evening when he would not be available. Allan Roth stated he would be available for discussion if they wanted.

Councilman Min stated he wrote down some notes and would email Allan Roth.

Allan Roth agreed to make the changes, and stated it was no problem. Allan Roth stated this was exactly what the Work Session was supposed to be.

Mayor Kim stated that was right.

Allan Roth asked if there were discussions about concerns with the ordinance or questions to let him know so that they could make those changes appropriately for the council to vote yes or no. Allan Roth thanked the council for getting involved and stated this was what the Work Session was for.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't want this to happen at the Regular Meeting because that meant it was sabotage, and grandstanding. Mayor Kim stated they didn't want to stop the governing body and proper process by doing that. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to add to everyone that if there was any issue with the consent agenda, and something had to be removed and moved to off consent, it was that time. Mayor Kim stated they couldn't do this at the Regular Meeting but at the Work Session. Mayor Kim asked to move forward.

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

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to announce that they would have to enter an impromptu Executive Session for Resolution 2026-55.

Allan Roth stated this was a settlement agreement that came in that day and he wanted to review it with the Council. Allan Roth stated they literally received it in the middle of the day. Allan Roth explained since it was a builder's remedy case that was advantageous to the borough, they were recommending the resolution as is from McManimon and Scotland.

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

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to clarify that there was an issue with wording. Mayor Kim stated it shouldn't have read "Treasurer of the Borough of Palisades Park" but should have read "Finance Department of the Borough of Palisades Park".

Mayor Kim repeated the correction and the resolution number.

Councilman Min asked if Mayor Kim wanted the council to pull the resolution.

Mayor Kim stated they weren't pulling anything at that time, and he was just saying that there was wording that had to be changed. Mayor Kim stated this was passed the year prior so that

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certain bills could be paid before or after meetings. Mayor Kim stated these bills were things that they could not argue like the electricity bill, or cable bill. Mayor Kim stated there were certain things that they were allowed to let the Finance Department pay.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the list that was attached to the resolution was not the list that was approved the year before.

Mayor Kim asked where.

Roberta Stern stated the list had everything on it that needed to be on it.

Mayor Kim stated they should talk about it. Mayor Kim read Palisades Park Board of Education, and asked if they wanted to stop them from being paid. Mayor Kim continued and read County of Bergen Tax and Open Space. Mayor Kim stated they had to pay this, the same as the emergency appropriations. Mayor Kim stated he was glad the council agreed. Mayor Kim mentioned the Joint Insurance Fund and asked if they didn't want to pay that. Mayor Kim stated the New Jersey State Health Insurance Benefit they had to pay. Mayor Kim continued and stated for FEMA Community Development Program costs the borough always got involved in the program and had to get involved, which was something they couldn't say no to. Mayor Kim stated if the council wanted to stop solid waste and recycling costs that was something they could consider. Mayor Kim stated for utility charges he didn't want anyone to ask about because just like their own personal homes, utilities had to be paid.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon went to speak but Mayor Kim asked her to let him finish.

Mayor Kim stated number eight was lease agreements and asked what they were.

Roberta Stern stated they were the parking lots.

Allan Roth stated those were the boroughs mandatory contracts that they had to pay. Allan Roth stated if they leased a car they had to pay it. Allan Roth stated to the council he was sure they didn't want the police vehicles being repossessed.

Mayor Kim stated these were lease agreements like the fleet bank. Mayor Kim stated pension payments they couldn't stop, and debt service payments for notes and bonds they had to do.

Roberta Stern stated they were due when they were due and didn't have due dates.

Mayor Kim asked what contractual obligations meant and asked if they meant agreements.

Allan Roth stated it wasn't only the collective bargain agreement but any other standard contracts that the borough had entered into that the council had already approved.

Roberta Stern stated they could be leasing, anything really, but it could be a duplication of other things listed. Roberta Stern stated they had other contracts with the county for shared services which was a contract with money owed on certain dates.

Mayor Kim asked if he could ask Roberta Stern a question. Mayor Kim stated the year before when they tailored to the Finance Department's issues such as getting bills at certain times which they couldn't control. Mayor Kim stated some things were basic utilities that they shouldn't have even discussed, but they allowed it. Mayor Kim stated there was a lot listed that had to be discussed and went beyond monthly utility payments. Mayor Kim stated it was about state treasurer, interfund, auditor adjustments, conference and related expenses. Mayor Kim stated they were pretty much adding everything in and asked whose idea it was.

Roberta Stern stated she thought Roy Riggitano could answer that.

Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano to explain why he decided to add a whole list to authorize to pay.

Roy Riggitano stated first of all, they were going to see all of the bills on the bills list no matter.

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Mayor Kim stated that was fine but there were certain things identified previously of things the council agreed to pay beforehand. Mayor Kim stated now there was a lot and about 40-60% of what was on the claims list.

Roy Riggitano stated that was right and mentioned the dollar value would be 80% which was included. Roy Riggitano stated the biggest payments were school and county taxes and everything else was put on.

Mayor Kim asked why they had to get this done before the meeting.

Roy Riggitano explained that the state asked the borough to present these at the beginning of the year to streamline the payment process.

Mayor Kim asked if this list was basically from the state and not from Roy Riggitano.

Roy Riggitano replied yes, it was from the state from him.

Mayor Kim repeated the list was from Roy Riggitano, and stated he thought it was just mentioned it was from the state.

Roy Riggitano stated the guidelines were from the state.

Mayor Kim asked if the guidelines included everything on the list.

Roy Riggitano confirmed that was correct.

Mayor Kim stated they needed to see that, and with the resolution he wanted the proof that the state requested the borough to streamline the payments to those mentioned on the list.

Councilman Min stated if he could remember correctly, the last time this resolution was done was back in May of 2025.

Roy Riggitano stated they took some of the items out.

Councilman Min stated the list of the 19 items were exactly the same as the year prior, however the Finance Department picked and choose what they wanted to pay first without approval. Councilman Min stated they had decided to pull some of those items that were supposed to go through the Governing Body.

Roy Riggitano replied that they did and they were not on the list.

Councilman Min asked if they weren't on the list the year before then how come it was on the list then.

Roy Riggitano replied (speaking indistinctively).

Roberta Stern stated that was different.

Councilman Min stated Resolution 2025-169 had the same 19 items from the previous year. Councilman Min stated his point was why they were bringing up the same list for the same 19 items.

Mayor Kim asked if these were the same items.

Roberta Stern replied that it was slightly different because it involved her making the decision and Councilman Min chose to pull that part of it. Roberta Stern stated the resolution didn't say that she could do it.

Councilman Min asked Roberta Stern if they pulled the items.

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Roberta Stern stated they didn't pull the items, but they pulled her name from it or the position of borough administrator to make the decisions. Roberta Stern stated that was what Councilman Min had an issue with and that part was taken out. Roberta Stern stated this was strictly outside of that. Roberta Stern stated that was the issue the year before, and the wording was changed because both Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon both had an issue with her having the authority to do that.

Councilman Min asked if Roberta Stern was saying that was the reason this had to be reintroduced with the same items.

Roberta Stern stated it wasn't reintroducing and to her knowledge was something that was reintroduced each year. Roberta Stern stated it had been reintroduced each year any place else she had ever worked.

Councilman Min asked if the purpose of the resolution for that year was just to take out the borough administrator.

Roberta Stern replied not necessarily and the only reason it was previously taken out was because Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon didn't want her to be the one to make the decision. Roberta Stern stated she wasn't mentioned anywhere in the resolution, it was just a list of bills to pay.

Mayor Kim stated he got Councilwoman Won-Yoon and she could lower her hand. Mayor Kim stated there were three things he didn't understand. Mayor Kim addressed the governing body and the borough administrator. Mayor Kim stated he had never seen that list from the year prior, and asked Councilman Min if he saw it as the same.

Councilman Min confirmed it was the same and advised Mayor Kim to check again.

Mayor Kim stated it was the same. Mayor Kim stated it shouldn't say treasurer but should read Finance Department. Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth mentioned the reason it said treasurer was because it was the verbiage from the state. Mayor Kim continued that the bottom line was that Councilman Min was saying all 19 items on the list were the same as the year before. Mayor Kim asked if he was correct and stated he didn't see any problems.

Roy Riggitano stated he didn't see any problems either.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to ask her question.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they could easily find out by looking at the minutes from the May 2025 meeting. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they had actually removed numbers 11, 13, 15, 16, and 18.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat, and she did.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they also added three.

Mayor Kim stated then the list wasn't the same then.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the proposal list was the same which was what Councilman Min mentioned.

Mayor Kim asked what list they had that they were referencing from the year prior. Mayor Kim stated he didn't want to waste any more time and they would have to get back to the drawing board on this. Mayor Kim stated he wanted Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon to speak to the borough administrator. Mayor Kim stated this was a Work Session so he wanted to clear something up. Mayor Kim stated Roberta Stern had mentioned something very important which was that this was the responsibility and role of borough administrator. Mayor Kim continued that the year prior, the governing body took away her duties so they made the list. Mayor Kim stated he had a concern with this. Mayor Kim stated if the borough administrator was supposed to be responsible for this, then she should have been able to be. Mayor Kim stated

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they could not micro manage the borough administrator. Mayor Kim advised when they had their meeting to make sure, they weren't micromanaging but working with the borough administrator. Mayor Kim stated no one had the experience like the borough administrator, or the attorney, or CFO. Mayor Kim stated they were novices and they were there to make sure the professionals provided the best options. Mayor Kim repeated they were not professionals.

Roberta Stern stated since they were discussing it, she wanted to make a comment. Roberta Stern stated number 15 for conferences she didn't know what the issue was but if they had a deadline it had to be paid. Roberta Stern used the Borough Clerk Conference from the year before as an example. Roberta Stern explained that she had to authorize a payment before a meeting so that the Borough Clerk could attend the conference.

Mayor Kim stated of course and asked why no one would talk about that.

Roberta Stern stated she didn't know but she was just asking what was wrong with 15 and 16 when they were regular things like membership fees for the Chiefs Association.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't need to spill their beans.

Roberta Stern responded that she was just saying.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't need to in front of the public and the two councilmembers along with the borough administrator and CFO could sit down together to figure it out.

Councilman Min asked if they made a stipulation on the resolution the year prior with correct items, didn't they have to copy what was passed previously.

Mayor Kim replied not exactly, and stated it was a new year.

Councilman Min stated the record from the previous year.

Mayor Kim stated they had a copy.

Councilman Min stated they didn't have a copy.

Mayor Kim asked how it was the same then, if he just told him that it was the same.

Councilman Min stated he searched through his emails from the year before.

Mayor Kim stated so then he did have a copy.

Councilman Min replied that they were supposed to receive a copy of the original copy the Friday before the Work Session Meeting so that a stipulation could be made on the day of the Work Session or Regular Meeting.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't have to, because this resolution was about creating a new one. Mayor Kim stated he had realized it wasn't the same, and the Finance Department provided a new list that was not the same as the year before. Mayor Kim stated he even asked where the old list was, Councilman Min had replied to him that that was the old list, and now Councilman Min was saying there wasn't an old list.

Roberta Stern asked if they could just work this out during the week.

Mayor Kim replied yeah.

Councilman Min stated no and asked if he could read off of Resolution 2025-169 which was a resolution from the year before. Councilman Min listed number one was the Palisades Park Board of Education.

Mayor Kim asked him what number that was.

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Councilman Min stated no, he was just going to read off the 19 items. Councilman Min listed number two County of Bergen Tax and Open Space, number three joint insurance, number four New Jersey state health benefits, number five FEMA and community, number six solid waste costs and recyclables, number seven utility charges, number eight lease agreements, number nine pension payments – Mayor Kim interjected and asked him why he was reading this when they all understood and could read.

Councilman Min replied no, he was reading off the 2025 resolution.

Mayor Kim stated the resolution stated 2025-169, and he didn't get it. Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min to explain because he was reading 2025-169.

Councilman Min explained in May 2025, this resolution was proposed. The governing body made a stipulation which was what they actually wanted to pass.

Mayor Kim stated he understood now and thanked him for the explanation. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was saying this was a proposal but in reality, not the final product.

Councilman Min responded that was correct.

Mayor Kim asked who had the final product. Mayor Kim stated the record keeper had it.

Councilman Donohue asked if Councilman Min had it because he had already read off the first nine of the lists. Councilman Donohue asked if he had the corrections that had to be made.

Roberta Stern asked what the point of this was.

Councilman Min continued to read off the list and stated number ten was service, number eleven contractual obligations, number twelve state treasurer, number thirteen interfund, number fourteen auditor adjustments, number fifteen conference, number sixteen memberships, number seventeen postage fee, number eighteen payments required to be made between councils and meeting for the same amount \$44,000, and number nineteen transfer of payroll and payroll agency. Councilman Min stated that was the actual list they had proposed back in 2025. Councilman Min stated during that meeting they made a stipulation to pull some of the items.

Mayor Kim stated he understood now.

Councilman Shin stated if a resolution adjustment was passed, either the clerk or the borough administrator should have advised the CFO to list those items only which was the finalized executed copy. Councilman Shin asked where it was.

Mayor Kim replied that was what he was trying to say.

Councilman Min stated they didn't need to know all of it, but to just make sure the clerk or the borough administrator had it sent to the council by email.

Mayor Kim stated it was the wrong resolution.

Councilman Shin stated they didn't need to receive any extra papers.

Councilman Min stated he didn't ask for the paper, but he was saying – Mayor Kim interjected and stated he just asked for the papers. Councilman Min replied no, once the governing body passed, and had voted on certain things, it was not their job to execute the resolution.

Mayor Kim stated he understood that Councilman Min was saying this wasn't the real resolution. Mayor Kim asked the clerk and borough administrator to find out what the real resolution was because he didn't know. Mayor Kim stated they were at the Work Session and they could figure it out no problem. Mayor Kim stated they would find out what the real resolution was, and he was unsure how the council received the other resolution, to see how it came out. Mayor Kim stated they had to see if the resolution had the same number 2025-169 and if things were different.

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Allan Roth stated this was just what was proposed, and could be proposed.

Mayor Kim responded he understood it was from the state.

Allan Roth replied he was just saying it was only proposed.

Mayor Kim stated he understood but still, the resolution read Resolution 2025-169 from the year before from the borough not from the state. Mayor Kim stated whoever created the new list and added new things was misleading, the council members were correct, and asked for it to be fixed. Mayor Kim stated they had to find out what the original conditions were for the 2025-169. Mayor Kim stated if the two council members were correct, they would have to follow through with it.

Roberta Stern stated they could also just introduce it the way it was and let the council vote on it. Roberta Stern stated they could remove the previous resolution number if it was in fact the same information.

Allan Roth stated they should just fix it for the next meeting.

Mayor Kim stated it was fine.

RESOLUTION 2026-44 Authorizing Settlement with Fair Share Housing Center

Councilman Shin stated they had to pay another \$100,000.

Roberta Stern asked to repeat the number.

Councilman Shin repeated and stated again the borough had to pay another \$100,000. Councilman Shin stated the settlement agreement was entered into December 2024. Councilman Shin explained in December of 2024 the governing body agreed to pay the attorney fees.

Roberta Stern stated that was in an Executive Session.

Councilwoman Lee correct that Councilman Shin meant 2025.

Roberta Stern stated 24 of 25.

Councilman Shin clarified he was talking about Resolution 2026-44. Councilman Shin stated the diagram showed that the borough entered into the builder's remedy agreements in the third round in December of 2024.

Mayor Kim stated that was correct.

Councilman Shin asked if it was 2024 or 2025.

Mayor Kim read "the borough will enter into the builders remedy agreements in the third round in December 2024."

Councilman Shin stated so it did read 2024.

Allan Roth asked what the question was.

Councilman Shin stated they promised to pay \$100,000 in fees.

Allan Roth stated that was correct for round three and for round four.

Councilman Shin stated there were three council members currently that were not on the council December of 2024. Councilman Shin stated the mayor was there and asked for an explanation on the background.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to explain.

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Councilman Shin stated again it was because there were three council members that were not active on the council at the time.

Councilman Min asked if this was previously discussed in an Executive Session.

Roberta Stern replied no.

Mayor Kim stated this was something else and the Executive Session – Councilman Shin stated he just wanted to know what the background was. Mayor Kim stated he understood.

Councilman Shin stated if they had to pay a fee of \$100,000 that was going to be another problem that year.

Mayor Kim stated this was something that was previously discussed and explained that this wasn't only Palisades Park that had to pay this fee. Mayor Kim continued to explain every other town still had to pay this fee regarding fair share housing.

Allan Roth stated a part of the rules were that the borough had to pay the legal fees towards fair share housing to get the funding.

Mayor Kim repeated it was every town.

Allan Roth stated only when they got sued. Allan Roth explained that they were able to negotiate a lesser amount than what was actually being billed they were also able to negotiate splitting the payments so that they didn't need to pay a lump sum amount.

Mayor Kim stated that what Councilman Shin was asking was that when this settlement was passed only three council members plus himself had approved it and the other three weren't on the council. Mayor Kim stated the council members that weren't there wanted an explanation on what the resolution was about, which was what Allan Roth was providing.

Councilman Shin stated these kinds of expenses increased the use of the expenditure and asked if he was correct.

Mayor Kim confirmed he was correct and they had to.

Councilman Shin asked if they could avoid this.

Mayor Kim stated they couldn't, and it was like the emergency appropriation something they couldn't avoid.

Allan Roth stated the only thing he could tell them was that if they didn't settle this the money was going to be higher.

Mayor Kim stated they also had to pay it by law.

Councilman Shin asked if this was being paid to the town attorney.

Mayor Kim replied no, this was being paid to fair share housing.

Councilman Shin stated he knew that but the attorneys assisted the town and he didn't know who this money was being paid to.

Allan Roth repeated fair share housing.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't pay the boroughs attorney.

Councilman Shin stated it wasn't fair; the borough paid this amount for attorneys to protect them but still they had to pay the \$100,000 from the town's money.

Roberta Stern stated it was court mandated.

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Councilman Shin stated that meant they would have to raise residents' taxes.

Mayor Kim replied they had no choice.

Allan Roth stated welcome to the New Jersey State Courts issuing legislature as opposed to the legislature issuing legislation. Allan Roth stated this was court mandated.

Councilman Shin asked if they had to pass this.

Allan Roth stated if they did not pass it then they would go to court and get dollar for dollar for their attorney fees.

Roberta Stern stated they argued their fees when they presented a certain number of hours. The boroughs attorney went back at them and stated they couldn't prove that those hours were actually worked. Roberta Stern stated that was when they finally backed off and made an agreement.

Mayor Kim stated this was standard for all courts and fair share housing that dealt with towns that didn't comply with round three or round four.

Councilman Shin stated if they didn't have a choice to accept the unfair decision, and it was the situation.

Mayor Kim stated it was unfair.

Councilman Shin stated they had to find out a way to make up the loss from the boroughs side.

Mayor Kim stated this was something they should speak about.

Councilman Shin that's all they had to work on and consider. Councilman Shin stated instead of criticizing why the money was used, they should find out how they could recover the amount that they had to pay.

Mayor Kim stated he thought the Finance Committee, Councilman Shin and Councilwoman Lee, had a lot of work to do and he was impressed that they were learning the steps fast. Mayor Kim stated they were transparent and provided the rest of the council with the information. Mayor Kim stated this wasn't a one council leadership but a six-council leadership. Mayor Kim stated he was glad they were learning fast.

Councilman Shin began to speak but Mayor Kim advised him that he would get an opportunity.

Mayor Kim stated he welcomed the council instead of saying no, to think about ways they could generate revenue fast enough, save money, and help the CFO to create a better budget for the year.

Councilman Shin stated he was done speaking.

Councilman Min stated there was an Executive Meeting December 15, 2025 before the newly elected officials came in. Councilman Min stated this had already been discussed which was the reason they had to vote on that resolution at the Executive Session. Councilman Min stated he just wanted to make that clear that it wasn't about the three council members who agreed on it.

Councilman Shin stated including those three council members, as a governing body they passed this resolution in December of 2024. Councilman Shin stated they passed it, and they didn't need to worry or complain about the use because it was passed.

Allan Roth stated that was absolutely the right word, and this was the consequence.

Councilman Shin stated they had to work hard to make up the money.

Allan Roth stated that was a separate issue.

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Councilman Shin replied as a governing body they had to study together how to make up the money.

Councilman Min asked with all the lawsuits if the borough was ever given an option to pay a higher fee.

Allan Roth replied that was his option, to pay higher.

Councilman Min stated there was no left or right.

Councilman Kwak stated he confirmed with Mayor Kim. When it came to learning about the situations currently the boroughs legal situation was that the process was automatic for representation for the municipality. Councilman Kwak stated this was to protect everyone in terms of if the settlement didn't occur, it would incur higher fees for the borough, which in term would be a hit upon the consituates. Councilman Kwak stated their job was to make sure the residents didn't have to go through that, and it didn't come out of their pockets. Councilman Kwak stated they shouldn't have to pay for things that came from people who had personal vendettas against the municipality. Councilman Kwak stated his job was to find solutions, and the Finance Committee had people who were financially forensic, able to read the numbers, someone who was very in depth and thorough. Councilman Kwak stated they had Councilwoman Lee, Councilman Donohue, and Councilman Shin who could read and find out other solutions. Councilman Kwak reiterated their job was to protect residents and represent them to make sure they didn't pay out of their pockets for someone who had an issue with the town. Councilman Kwak stated he wanted it to be known that they were actively working on solutions. Councilman Kwak stated there was nothing they slept on, and he was not there to create or highlight problems but there to find solutions. Councilman Kwak stated he told everyone in January at the meeting that it was his pleasure and honor to work on it for the residents. Councilman Kwak stated he believed that was everyone there. Councilman Kwak stated he wanted to clarify that these legal proceedings and legal fees were not something that the council had to think of and decide to approve the numbers. This was something that was an automatic process and the attorneys had to do what they had to do to protect the town. Councilman Kwak stated if not, the residents paid and it wasn't fair and the council believed it wasn't right.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she wanted to make a comment. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they passed the original settlement in 2024, and it stated \$20,000 instead of \$100,000. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the \$100,000 popped up at the Executive Meeting.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to repeat herself.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon repeated if they looked at the original agreement – Mayor Kim interjected and asked her where the original agreement was.

Roberta Stern asked with whom.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated it wasn't there.

Allan Roth replied that it was a years' worth of legal fees and he didn't follow. Allan Roth stated she had to remember that this amount wasn't only for round three but also for any fees in round four. Allan Roth stated they were capping their fees.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she wasn't saying this wasn't the right settlement.

Mayor Kim asked her then what was it.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she just wanted to make a comment off of what Councilman Shin had mentioned. The settlement that they passed in 2024 stated \$20,000 for legal fees.

Councilman Kwak asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if she remembered from 2024 why it was raised.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she just was making a comment.

Mayor Kim advised Councilman Kwak he couldn't get out of line, and Councilman Kwak apologized.

Mayor Kim stated for him this could be simplified. Councilwoman Won-Yoon had mentioned that the original agreement was for \$20,000 but \$200,000 was being presented at that time. Mayor Kim stated that was only for 2024 to recur the legal fees. Mayor Kim stated this was a cap, and they made a good deal done by a straw vote in an Executive Session. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min agreed, and he remembered that as well. Mayor Kim stated this didn't escape the fact that they had to pay it because the former governing body did not comply with the affordable homes. Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth how many other towns had an issue with builder's remedy issues for third and fourth round.

Allan Roth stated there were 600 municipalities and almost everyone was having the issues. Allan Roth stated in South Brunswick they were in a worse situation than Palisades Park was regarding affordable housing.

Mayor Kim stated this was a common issue for all municipalities in Jersey. Mayor Kim stated in their case they knew why it was done wrong, and they were there to fix it so it didn't happen again. Mayor Kim stated again they were there to make sure it didn't happen again so that when a developer wasn't complying – Mayor Kim stated they hadn't done the masterplan for 20 years and it said in the masterplan that they had to be concerned with the affordable housing requirements. Mayor Kim stated it never came out because no one did that. Mayor Kim stated they were trying to stop uncontrolled development. Mayor Kim stated the big difference between fighting for their rights was that a contractor could say the borough wasn't complying with the law, and they were going to buy three homes and build a 35-unit property. Mayor Kim stated they were trying to make that stop. Developers could choose which ever location they wanted, the borough would receive their rights back, and it would prevent future builder's remedy cases. Mayor Kim stated this would make the borough immune and they had ten years to figure out what they could do to comply with 209 affordable units. Mayor Kim stated this was a part of the process of fixing things. Mayor Kim stated they shouldn't argue about how much it costed. Mayor Kim stated he knew it hurt, but unfortunately it was a part of the process they had to take. Mayor Kim stated other fair share housing courts required other municipalities to pay them as well, and it wasn't only Palisades Park. Mayor Kim stated they all agreed it was a great deal and if they didn't pass it, there could be a worse deal presented.

Councilman Kwak stated he wanted to add something but asked Allan Roth to correct him if he was wrong. Councilman Kwak stated there was a total of eight lawsuits, and seven builders remedy cases which were very long cases. Councilman Kwak stated on top of that, they had 13 Planning Board cases. Councilman Kwak stated they could imagine the amount of settlement money people were looking for when there was such a high volume of cases. Councilman Kwak stated this included attorneys' fees, and whatever games they could play to constantly adjourn over and over again. Councilman Kwak continued to explain that this costed the borough money, and if they didn't handle the cases for the town, it kicked back to the residents. Councilman Kwak stated their job was to remedy those cases as best as he could, and mitigate the amount of loss so taxes didn't go up, and they could still build and fulfill the New Jersey state requirements for the town. Councilman Kwak stated they were a one square mile town with approximately 28 to 30,000 residents. Councilman Kwak asked how much land the borough really had to work with, and asked everyone to think about where they could potentially place 209-220 units. Councilman Kwak stated it wasn't going to be easy to build, and plus all units weren't going to be affordable housing. Councilman Kwak stated on average if a building is 80% market value, and 20% affordable housing they could image the volume of residents coming to town. Councilman Kwak stated their job was to make sure the residents lived better, and didn't have to pay a dime of it. Councilman Kwak stated their job was to facilitate those things. Councilman Kwak asked that they didn't ask and highlight the problems but to help them find a solution to stop the lawsuits. Councilman Kwak stated they were the voice of the community, and the council was the conduit of their voices. Councilman Kwak implored everyone to tell them how to speak and to speak out. Councilman Kwak stated this was a situation they were fighting together – Councilman Kwak repeated “together” in Korean. Councilman asked everyone to work together because it wasn't the time to squabble but time for solutions.

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Councilman Donohue asked if this would settle the affordable housing issue.

Allan Roth began to answer and stated no – Mayor Kim interjected and stated Councilman Donohue’s question was if the borough had to pay more to fair share housing in the future. Mayor Kim stated they did not, and it was a full package deal until they were done.

Allan Roth stated this didn’t settle the cases, but settled the legal fees that the borough was obligated to pay fair share housing under the rules.

Mayor Kim asked if this was for round four and five too.

Allan Roth stated this was finishing round three, and for round four.

Mayor Kim stated round four was from 2025-2035. Mayor Kim asked if there were any more concerns regarding the consent agenda. Mayor Kim stated there were three ways the council members could understand legal fees incurred. Mayor Kim stated first were lawsuits which they couldn’t control. Mayor Kim stated as Councilman Kwak had mentioned before there were people that wanted the borough to fail. Mayor Kim stated again those things they had no choice on, even if the allegations had no grounds. Mayor Kim stated that was something the attorney, administrator, and he knew. Mayor Kim stated the council didn’t have to know unless they wanted to know which was a question that no one asked. Mayor Kim stated no one asked how many lawsuits the borough had so far. Mayor Kim continued that if they would have asked then they would have been told. Mayor Kim stated again that was the first one, they had to defend the borough and not one entity or person. When someone sued the borough, it was automatic, the claim went through the Joint Insurance Fund and the borough was defended. Mayor Kim stated there was nothing the council members could say to stop it because they had no right to tell the company to not protect the borough. Mayor Kim stated the second was regarding settlements which they were going into an Executive Session for. Mayor Kim stated when they had to do any payouts, the council received the information and got to choose. Mayor Kim stated not once did they pay anyone out without the consent of the governing body. Mayor Kim stated the third way they paid for legal included claims. Every bill went through the claims and Mayor Kim could not accept the statement no one told the council about it. Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

RESOLUTION 2026-49

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

Councilman Min asked if he could have a copy of the resume.

Sophia Jang explained that she requested the resume from Michael Gardner but since they received the resume through the internet what was provided was the only one they could provide.

Roberta Stern stated she also asked Michael Gardner that morning.

Mayor Kim asked Michael Gardner to stand up and answer some questions. Mayor Kim stated he believed there was a little bit more information than only the police application and asked for the resume. Mayor Kim thanked him and stated he was going to hold onto Councilman Min’s request.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the resolution read that he would receive 30 hours per week.

Mayor Kim stated it should have been 28 hours per week.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if it was 28 hours per week.

Allan Roth stated it was not to exceed 30 hours per week so they could set it to whatever they wanted below that.

Mayor Kim replied that they shouldn’t have done 30 hours and it should have been 28 hours.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked wasn’t it 25 hours per week.

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Mayor Kim replied no it was 28 hours per week. Mayor Kim stated they would ask the police director.

Allan Roth stated anything more than 30 hours per week was considered full time which was why it said not to exceed. Allan Roth stated if they wanted to change it not to exceed 28 hours per week it was an easy fix.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to repeat.

Allan Roth repeated that the state of New Jersey considered full time to be 30 hours per week or more. Allan Roth stated most places were 35 hours for issues of pension. There were also some municipalities that allowed 30 hours which was why he put in the resolution not to exceed so that it would never get to full time. Allan Roth stated this also gave the discretion to the borough if for whatever reason they wanted to change the hours over the summer, they could increase the hours but not to exceed 30 hours. Allan Roth stated that was up to the council and he always put in as leeway and for the department head to make the call.

Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth was correct, and thanked god that they lived-in modern-day technology. Mayor Kim stated a 30-hour benefit threshold A.C.A. Mayor Kim read, "Under the federal Affordable Care Act, which applied to New Jersey and employees considered full time, if they worked an average of 30 hours or more per week, or 130 hours per month.". Mayor Kim asked to move forward.

Councilman Shin stated when they did interviews with the applicant they mentioned 28 hours per week.

Mayor Kim stated they made a mistake.

Allan Roth asked what they wanted to do.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted to leave it as is and he was going to follow the A.C. A's. Mayor Kim stated it read no more than 30 hours per week and whether or not they did 28 hours it didn't matter, but he was going to follow the A.C.A. Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth was correct. If they did 28 hours it was still okay with the A.C.A. because it was under 30 hours. Mayor Kim stated they were still talking about "potato, potahto". Mayor Kim recommended they left it at 30 hours and the police could decide on 28 hours if they wanted to. Mayor Kim thanked Michael Gardner. Michael Gardner began to hand out copies of the resume and Mayor Kim thanked him. Mayor Kim stated he sent the council an email explaining why they needed a part time code enforcer. Mayor Kim asked everyone to not say they didn't understand it, but if they wanted to talk about it that was fine. Mayor Kim stated he gave them explicit reasons why they needed a part time. Mayor Kim told everyone to take the resume and they still had the right to say yes or no.

Councilman Min asked if the council could also receive the letter of good standing from the former employer because it was an attached file.

Mayor Kim asked who said there was a letter of good standing and questioned if it was the chief.

Police Director Michael Gardner asked for what.

Mayor Kim asked if the Chief made the determination of good standing.

Councilman Min stated no, the letter of good standing that was in the applications file from the previous employer.

Michael Gardner asked if it was the letter recommending him.

Councilman Min stated that was the letter he was referring to which was attached to the application.

Michael Gardner stated he could make a copy of that too.

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Councilman Min apologized that he had to make a double trip.

Mayor Kim stated this was a part time job and he didn't understand why they were making it so difficult.

Councilman Shin stated he wanted to say something as the chair of the Police Committee. They had interviewed four applicants on Monday and seven members voted for who they wanted to hire unanimously. Councilman Shin stated all seven members agreed this person was the best and gave a strong recommendation from the department.

Mayor Kim stated it was unanimous and Councilman Donohue agreed.

Councilman Shin stated the council could vote on it.

Councilman Min stated he recognized the name which was why he wanted more information.

Mayor Kim stated this was up to the recommendations from the police and input from the Police Committee to decide if it would be 28 or 30 hours. Mayor Kim stated this was still not a problem.

Mayor Kim reiterated the reason they needed a part time code enforcer and traffic enforcement officer. Mayor Kim stated this person was recommended by the police director as well as the chief, and they only had one full time code enforcer. Mayor Kim stated if this one full time code enforcement officer was sick or in this case going away for over a month, the borough was crippled. Mayor Kim stated they needed a young, vibrant person who could learn and supplement the work. Mayor Kim stated before COVID the borough had 24,000 residents and at the current time there were around 28,000 to 30,000. Mayor Kim stated he could not imagine having one code enforcer giving tickets and attending court at nighttime for the tickets to testify. Mayor Kim stated one person for a population of over 24,000 residents was not enough, and they could check any other town. Mayor Kim stated this was also an essential position that generated revenue as well.

RESOLUTION 2026-47

Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for the position of Clerk
Secretary

Sophia Jang stated Resolution 2026-47 needed to be discussed.

Mayor Kim asked Sophia Jang if she wanted to discuss it.

Sophia Jang stated there was a lack of employment in the Clerk's Office. Sophia Jang explained that usually the Clerk's Office operated with five employees including the Clerk but as of that time there was only three employees. Sophia Jang stated unfortunately one of the employees resigned and only two people including herself were working in the office. Sophia Jang stated they definitely needed to advertise for the position of secretary.

Councilman Min asked who resigned.

Sophia Jang asked if it was okay to disclose the name of the employee.

Allan Roth stated it was fine to disclose because the employee wasn't working for them anymore.

Sophia Jang stated the employee was Jason Park.

Councilman Min stated he didn't know that.

Sophia Jang stated without help in the Clerk's Office it could not function.

Roberta Stern stated he resigned without notice.

Councilman Min asked if they had to accept the resignation then as well.

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Sophia Jang replied yes, but the resolution mentioned was only to authorize to advertise.

Mayor Kim asked the borough administrator to tell Councilman Min that she accepted the resignation.

Roberta Stern stated she accepted the resignation and it was not like he was a long-term employee that retired.

Allan Roth stated the law in the state of New Jersey said the borough just had to accept and didn't designate who authorized it.

Councilman Min asked if council members could be notified if any employee quit their job.

Allan Roth stated no problem.

Mayor Kim asked the borough administrator to make sure if anyone was quitting or retiring, they notified the governing body. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to go back to Resolution 2026-49.

Councilman Shin asked if the position was to advertise for the clerk's secretary or the clerk's assistant.

Sophia Jang stated it was for the Clerk's Office secretary.

Councilman Shin stated it read the Clerk's Office assistant.

Mayor Kim stated the resolution read "Authorizing the advertisement for a full-time clerks secretary whereas the requires a full-time deputy clerk assistant" which were two different positions. Mayor Kim stated someone created the resolution incorrectly and he hoped whoever created it fixed the positions for the next time. Mayor Kim stated there was a position for Clerk's Office secretary and Clerk's Office assistant. Mayor Kim asked Sophia Jang which one they had to advertise for.

Roberta Stern stated for the now therefore part.

Sophia Jang stated it was for the clerk's secretary.

Mayor Kim stated they had to change deputy clerk's assistant to secretary, and thanked Councilman Shin. Mayor Kim stated good catch, and he didn't see that originally.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions regarding the consent resolution. Mayor Kim asked if there were any resolutions that they wanted to bring off consent except for the settlement for builder's remedy which they would go into an Executive Session for.

Councilman Min asked if he could make a comment regarding something else that was not listed.

Mayor Kim asked him what it was concerning.

Councilman Min stated it was regarding emergency Resolution 2025-361.

Mayor Kim stated that was the resolution that both Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon both didn't pass.

Councilman Min asked if the council members could have clarification on why it was denied from the state.

Mayor Kim stated he had a question for Councilman Min. Mayor Kim stated he had a big problem with him and Councilwoman Won-Yoon and he wanted to tell them why. Mayor Kim stated they had a good point, they were legislative and wanted to state if there was a problem. Mayor Kim repeated "may be a problem". Mayor Kim stated because of that problem that they had a concern with the work product or duties of an employee; they both said no for that reasoning. Mayor Kim stated his recommendation to them was that at that moment they could

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have passed the emergency appropriation because they already approved it and paid for it. Mayor Kim stated he told them the three ways they could tell was from claims, settlements, and lawsuits. Mayor Kim stated they didn't need to know that unless they went to Roberta Stern and asked her about the lawsuits. Mayor Kim stated that wasn't about spending money, but they had to protect the borough. Mayor Kim stated they should have let it pass so they didn't hurt the people or damage the 2026 budget. Mayor Kim stated they should have asked for more clarification and sat down with the CFO. Mayor Kim stated again they should have passed it. Mayor Kim stated both Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min elected after two hours of talking about it, that they weren't going to pass it ultimately hurting the people and getting them in trouble. Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilman Min said no because they didn't like the procedure. Councilman Min began to respond but Mayor Kim stated he wasn't done yet and he would get his chance. Mayor Kim stated now, they were asking him why the emergency appropriation didn't pass.

Councilman Min replied no he wasn't.

Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min just asked why didn't the resolution get passed.

Councilman Min stated no, he asked why it got denied.

Mayor Kim stated denied, or passed, big deal, and asked Councilman Min why he was trying to make words. Mayor Kim stated his point was because Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon voted no, the borough was in the situation it was in. Mayor Kim stated they were trying for a second time, to see if the resolution passed because Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon had voted no the first and second time it was introduced. Mayor Kim asked what the concern was when they got what they wanted.

Councilman Min asked what the reason was that the resolution was turned down at the December 15th meeting.

Mayor Kim began to ask why – Councilman Min stated to just tell him the reason.

Roy Riggitano stated he gave two hours of his time to the governing body, and the two council members voted no. Roy Riggitano stated he pleaded for it to be passed, and asked what Councilman Min's question was.

Councilman Min stated he spoke to the Department of Community Affairs.

Roy Riggitano asked if Councilman Min had stated he spoke to the Department of Community Affairs.

Councilman Min replied yes, he did, and what they stated was – Roy Riggitano stated Councilman Min went right over his head.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Min why he would call the Department of Community Affairs when he could have just asked Roy Riggitano.

Councilman Min stated he just wanted clarification after the Sine Die Meeting, that was all.

Allan Roth stated that was two different meetings, the Sine Die did not occur in December.

Councilman Min stated he was going to get there. Councilman Min asked Roy Riggitano again why the resolution was turned down at the December 15, 2025 meeting.

Roy Riggitano told Councilman Min to tell him since he was the one who called the Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Kim agreed, and asked again why he was asking Roy Riggitano if he called.

Roy Riggitano stated Councilman Min went over his head.

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Mayor Kim asked for the reason Councilman Min was asking.

Councilman Min stated at the December 15, 2025 Meeting the emergency resolution needed four votes to pass. Councilman Min asked if at the Sine Die Meeting there were four votes made.

Allan Roth confirmed there were.

Councilman Min stated the Department of Community Affairs did not turn down the resolution because of lack of votes.

Mayor Kim asked why because he didn't know, and at that time they were waiting for the results.

Councilman Min asked Mayor Kim if he received an official letter from the Department of Community Affairs stating the emergency resolution was denied.

Mayor Kim asked which one.

Councilman Min asked what Mayor Kim meant, and stated there was only one.

Councilwoman Lee asked Councilman Min what the Department of Community Affairs said the reason was for the denial.

Councilman Min stated it wasn't about the meeting that was held and the reason behind the resolution was due to an over expenditure. Councilman Min stated the state statute was clear regarding over expenditure caps being raised in cap.

Mayor Kim stated three percent.

Councilman Min responded the resolution was written by request with the specific writing to put the over expenditures out of cap. Councilman Min stated that was the reason the DCA denied it.

Roy Riggitano stated absolutely not.

Allan Roth stated that wasn't true, and it had to be out of cap which was the whole point of having the emergency appropriation which was to put it out of cap.

Mayor Kim stated he had to strongly emphasize that councilmembers should not – Councilman Min asked Mayor Kim if he could finish.

Mayor Kim stated to let Councilman Min finish, and he had it on recording anyways.

Councilman Min stated when the letter came in, Councilman Min was present. Councilman Min stated the DCA stated "The resolution dated back in December 15, 2025 has been deemed invalid due to the vote not meeting the 2/3 requirement." – Mayor Kim interjected and stated it was thanks to Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Councilman Min stated he was going to get there. Councilman Min continued reading "Second, the resolution authorizing the emergency dated January 5, 2026 was invalid due to it being approved after the fiscal year 2025. Additional to that, the appropriations were over expenditures therefore must be raised inside the cap for the 2026 budget." Councilman Min stated that was the reason.

Mayor Kim responded no, and asked Allan Roth to explain.

Allan Roth stated that was not the reason. Allan Roth stated that was the result.

Mayor Kim repeated that was the result, and stated that was why they couldn't do it in the cap.

Councilman Min stated the resolution read "The emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2026 budget and is requested to be excluded from the cap.

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Allan Roth stated that was correct.

Councilman Min began to respond but Mayor Kim advised him he had to wait.

Mayor Kim stated he believed Councilman Min had mistaken his English and stated there was a little bit of an English problem.

Councilman Min stated no he was not.

Mayor Kim asked for an explanation and then stated he was going to explain to Councilman Min. Mayor Kim stated the last thing that was read “lacks” lastly, and those kinds of things happened which was explained. Mayor Kim stated because of that they were going to have to put it outside of the cap.

Councilman Min responded no, the expenditure had to be in cap which was the statute.

Mayor Kim asked why Councilman Min was saying it had to be in cap when he was not a professional. Mayor Kim repeated Councilman Min was not a professional and stated he was micromanaging so many things, it wasn't even funny.

Councilman Min stated he wasn't being funny.

Mayor Kim responded that Councilman Min went over the CFO's head.

Councilman Min replied no, he spoke to the DCA.

Mayor Kim asked why he spoke to the DCA when there was a professional at the borough.

Roberta Stern asked who Councilman Min spoke to.

Councilman Min replied Nada.

Roberta Stern questioned Nada.

Councilman Min confirmed.

Roberta Stern stated Councilman Min spoke to Nada.

Mayor Kim asked everyone to please wait and stated his point was they were trying to explain in the presence of the CFO and borough attorney that Councilman Min's interpretation of “it must, it has to” was incorrect.

Allan Roth repeated it was incorrect and that was the whole point of the emergency appropriation.

Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was not accepting the answers from the CFO and borough attorney.

Councilman Min replied no, the DCA clearly stated that the statute was clear. If it was not an over expenditure from 2025 then they could request to put it outside of cap. Councilman Min stated specifically over expenditures had to be raised in cap.

Councilman Shin stated it looked like the DCA denied the borough submission of the emergency appropriation. Councilman Shin stated the reason the letter stated was not because of the over expenditure or because of the quantity.

Mayor Kim stated that was why.

Councilman Shin stated they denied it because the procedure was not proper.

Councilman Min began to answer but Councilman Shin asked if he could finish.

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Councilman Shin stated at the December 15, 2025 meeting the resolution required a super majority so they needed four votes but three votes were received. Councilman Shin stated the borough then informed the DCA that the resolution was passed and they found that there was a procedural error. Councilman Shin repeated that the resolution needed four votes. Councilman Shin stated they wanted to correct that so they held the Sine Die Meeting on January 5, 2026. Councilman Shin stated they corrected it and sent it to the DCA. Councilman Shin repeated the reason was because there was a procedural error with the votes. Councilman Shin then stated that the DCA stated this should have been handled in 2025 fiscal year with the governing body at that time. Councilman Shin stated the two new councilmembers included were not in term yet so they denied it. Councilman Shin stated the DCA did not reject the over expenditure amount, but because the resolution was not adopted procedurally correct.

Mayor Kim stated he couldn't really say this but he didn't know if that was true or not.

Councilman Shin stated not to misunderstand that the town passed a tremendous amount of over expenditure. Councilman Shin asked if they thought that should fall on residents' taxes and answered no, he told everyone they couldn't avoid that money. Councilman Shin stated if there were thief's that came to his house and broke all the windows and doors, he would want money to fix it. Councilman Shin stated he would have to use more money than he had, and he had no choice.

Mayor Kim repeated there was no choice.

Councilman Shin stated ultimately, he would be the one left with no money, and they had to criticize the thief.

Mayor Kim stated people were suing them right now.

Councilman Shin stated they had to fix the windows and doors, which was what they were trying to do. Councilman Shin stated they couldn't avoid the money they had to spend to defend the borough. Councilman Shin stated now, they had to get the approval for the over expenditure amount. Councilman Shin stated they had to figure out a way to make up the money that was lost, and fix the house so the thieves didn't come back again.

Mayor Kim stated he agreed.

Councilman Shin stated if they came again, they would have an over expenditure of money again so they had to study and work together which was what he was trying to say. Councilman Shin stated this was a matter of procedure and not because of an amount of money being incorrect.

Mayor Kim stated he understood and thanked Councilman Shin.

Councilman Min stated the three categories in legal – Mayor Kim asked if he could see the letter. Councilman Min asked if he ever got the letter.

Mayor Kim replied he had not and asked to see the letter. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was the only one who had that letter.

Councilman Min stated Roberta Stern had the letter as well.

Roberta Stern stated she received it after wards from the Clerk after she received it.

Councilman Min asked then why wasn't it distributed to the council members.

Roberta Stern stated to tell the truth, she thought it already was.

Mayor Kim stated that was beside the point, and stated they were going into too many things.

Councilman Min asked if he could continue.

Mayor Kim stated go ahead.

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Councilman Min asked if he could have the letter back.

Mayor Kim stated he wanted the letter back.

Councilman Min stated the three categories legal, judgements, and trash were budgeted items. Councilman Min explained when they said budgeted items it meant in cap so anything that had not been budgeted was out of cap. Councilman Min stated therefore those three items should have been raised in cap but the governing body was presented at the December and January meeting with the same resolution requesting those three items were placed out of cap. Councilman Min stated that was why the DCA denied it.

Mayor Kim asked who put it out of cap.

Councilman Min stated that was the request.

Mayor Kim stated he understood and asked for the letter back. Mayor Kim stated he understood Councilman Min didn't make sense so he was trying to make him make sense. Mayor Kim asked for the letter back so that he could explain it to Councilman Min. Mayor Kim thanked him. Mayor Kim stated there was a little bit of an English barrier and he was going to tell him exactly – Councilman Min interjected and responded no there wasn't. Mayor Kim asked if he could speak, and stated Councilman Min could allow him to speak or could say no. Mayor Kim began to say he got exactly –

Councilman Min interrupted and told Mayor Kim to not say he had an English barrier.

Mayor Kim replied okay, and asked him to let him explain. Mayor Kim stated strike that, Councilman Min did not have an English barrier but he had misread it and misunderstood it. Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth would say the same thing. Mayor Kim read "The resolution dated December 15, 2025 has been deemed invalid due to the vote not meeting the 2/3 vote requirement."

Councilman Min told Mayor Kim to start reading from the top.

Mayor Kim stated that was the top.

Councilman Min replied no, the top that explained why it got denied.

Mayor Kim stated that was the reason it was denied.

Councilman Min stated not the reason, and told Mayor Kim to start reading from the first paragraph at the top.

Mayor Kim stated he would read the whole thing if Councilman Min wanted.

Allan Roth stated it just said denied.

Mayor Kim repeated it just said denied and asked Councilman Min what he wanted. Mayor Kim stated he was reading it and asked Councilman Min again what he wanted.

Councilman Min asked to let all the councilmembers read the letter.

Mayor Kim stated he was trying to finish and Councilman Min was bothering him and had to allow him to finish. Mayor Kim stated there were three conditions why it got denied like Councilman Min talked about. Mayor Kim stated the resolution dated December 15, 2025 had been deemed invalid due to the vote not meeting the 2/3 vote requirement which they all agreed on. Mayor Kim asked if they all agreed. Mayor Kim stated the second reason read "The resolution authorizing the emergency dated January 5, 2026 is invalid due to it being approved after 2025 fiscal year." Mayor Kim asked if they all agreed.

Councilman Min began to speak – Mayor Kim advised Councilman Min to please stop and let him talk.

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Allan Roth stated to let Mayor Kim talk.

Mayor Kim stated he was trying to save everyone's time and explain it. Mayor Kim asked if everyone agreed on the second reason. Mayor Kim stated the third part was where Councilman Min was confused. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was very reluctant. Mayor Kim read "In addition, the appropriation of over expenditures..." – Mayor Kim interrupted to explain it read Herego meaning in addition. Mayor Kim continued it was because on December 15, 2025 there was a 2/3 meeting requirement that Councilman Min didn't fulfill. Mayor Kim stated the second time the vote was denied was because it was taken in January 2026 and not 2025. Mayor Kim stated therefore the appropriation of over expenditures cannot be in cap but had to be out of cap.

Roberta Stern stated that was the whole point.

Mayor Kim asked if they understood that and stated that was the truth.

Roberta Stern stated that was what the letter read.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth what his interpretation was and asked if he was correct or not.

Allan Roth stated the letter was making a statement that because they did not have the vote on the December 15, 2025 meeting it had to go in the cap. Allan Roth stated they did that at the Sine Die Meeting. The letter was saying that it was invalid for being approved after the 2025 year but that was exactly what a Sine Die Meeting was supposed to be. Allan Roth stated it allowed the governing body to do action before the new council sat. Allan Roth stated so everyone was aware, there was a request for review by the head of the Local Finance Board that was submitted. Allan Roth stated the Finance Board actually said he was reviewing it personally because he wrote an email apologizing that he missed their email.

Mayor Kim stated he was asking a simple question and he was talking about something they could talk about later.

Allan Roth apologized.

Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth was the best there as he was the attorney. Mayor Kim stated Allan Roth probably spoke better English than both of them combined. Mayor Kim asked if that meant the first reason was because they didn't do right at the December 15, 2025 meeting, there was a 2/3 vote received thanks to Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Mayor Kim stated the second reason was because the resolution wasn't passed in 2025, they couldn't do it therefore they had to put it out of cap.

Allan Roth stated that was what he was saying that was the remedy.

Mayor Kim stated so that was what it meant.

Allan Roth stated it was the remedy.

Mayor Kim asked to please not deny the attorney and stated he wasn't the CFO. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was out of line.

Allan Roth explained that was exactly what an emergency appropriation resolution was to do which was to raise the money in the following year outside the cap instead of in. Allan Roth stated otherwise the emergency appropriation wouldn't make sense.

Roberta Stern agreed.

Mayor Kim stated he was going to say this one last time. Because of the two problems all of them created, this was the result. Therefore, they had to put this outside of cap instead of inside cap. Mayor Kim stated that was what it meant by the legal attorney, and stated if Councilman Min had a law degree to please come back.

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Roberta Stern stated she had to do something important and asked if she could go back to something they had overlooked.

Mayor Kim asked her to continue.

RESOLUTION 2026-47 Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for the position of Clerk
Secretary

Roberta Stern stated unless this advertisement was going on the borough website that week, the Clerk wouldn't be able to appoint anyone the following week. Roberta Stern stated they needed that person sooner than later and stated besides the difference in the language, it needed to be made clear that the Clerk could advertise for the position online. Roberta Stern stated otherwise they wouldn't be able to appoint someone and she wanted the Clerk to be able to begin interviewing.

Mayor Kim stated this was easy as they had done this before. Mayor Kim stated they could impromptu change the resolution conditions. Mayor Kim stated this was a Work Session – Roberta Stern stated and it was small. Mayor Kim repeated it was small and they were just changing the verbiage from clerk's assistant to clerk's secretary and whereas which was possible.

Roberta Stern stated they also had to change where it said it could be advertised immediately on the website.

Mayor Kim stated he understood and repeated the borough administrator was asking to add it to the website immediately.

Allan Roth stated they could do it retroactively and stated they could do it and the resolution would become retroactive.

Mayor Kim asked if everyone understood.

Allan Roth began to explain but Roberta Stern stated just so that the following week the Clerk could interview. Allan Roth stated he understood and asked if he could explain. Allan Roth apologized to the council for potentially stepping out of line, and asked if anyone had a problem authorizing the Clerk to advertise for the position and then just passing the resolution retroactively.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't have to fight every word, dime, and cents, and waste so much time.

Allan Roth asked if any council members had an objection.

Mayor Kim stated he had no objections.

Allan Roth stated it was just to advertise. When no objections were made Allan Roth stated that was it, they were done.

Sophia Jang asked if they needed a vote.

Allan Roth stated he and Sophia Jang would change the resolution to retroactively permit.

Sophia Jang thanked everyone.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Lee reported an update from the Finance Board. Councilwoman Lee stated the Finance Committee, CFO, Mayor, and Borough Administrator, all had a meeting the Friday prior. The CFO provided an overview of the boroughs financial obligations and confirmed that the operating deficit from 2025 was \$775,000. Councilwoman Lee stated they were reviewing

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the budget very closely and trying to come up with options to make up for the deficit. Councilwoman Lee stated they would keep everyone posted.

Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Lee and Councilman Shin were both part of the Finance Committee. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Kwak was racking their brains with trying to find out new ways to save money, reduce expenses, and create revenue. Mayor Kim stated he appreciated their proactiveness. Mayor Kim stated this was what they needed, and stated they didn't need negative energy saying no when they needed solutions.

Councilman Shin stated as a member of the Finance Committee he wanted to mention one thing. Councilman Shin stated they were reviewing all of the details for 2026 and they had to provide more accuracy to protect the resident's taxes. Councilman Shin stated they had to avoid mismanagement of the budget like 2025. Councilman Shin stated there were three items that caused the over expenditure which included garbage pick up. Councilman Shin stated in the budget for garbage there was 1.96 million Dollars. Councilman Shin stated the contract with the garbage company was made three years prior and the contract was for 2.2 million Dollars. Councilman Shin stated since they hadn't budgeted for that amount of money naturally, there was going to be an over expenditure of \$250,000. Councilman Shin repeated again this was natural. Councilman Shin stated this was not mismanagement of the budget but was designed for the over expenditure from the beginning. Councilman Shin stated this was not found out by the Finance Committee.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't know about that.

Councilman Shin told Mayor Kim not to interrupt him.

Mayor Kim apologized.

Councilman Shin stated he wanted to avoid mistakes that year so they had to budget 2.4 million Dollars for the garbage collection. Councilman Shin stated they knew they had a contractual obligation of 2.2 million Dollars and this was something the Finance Committee should have done in the past.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Shin. Mayor Kim stated Councilman Shin stated in front of everyone that he recalled the CFO mentioned the 2025 Finance Committee coerced him to say a 2.2 million Dollar budget to a 1.85 million Dollar budget because they wanted to lower the taxes. Mayor Kim asked the CFO to reiterate what happened.

Roy Riggitano stated Councilman Shin was right the contract was for 2.2 million Dollars. Roy Riggitano stated however, politics did come into play, and the taxes that the prior Finance Committee wanted to raise would have been less than \$400. Roy Riggitano stated that was not his call and it was the boroughs budget.

Mayor Kim asked what they said. Mayor Kim stated the CFO had not recommended to artificially lower the DPW budget to create a \$400 increase in taxes per household. Mayor Kim asked what the Finance Committee from 2025 agreed on.

Roy Riggitano stated everyone had agreed they had to bring it down to \$400 a house.

Mayor Kim asked if the prior Finance Committee had mentioned if he didn't make it \$400 a household they weren't going to pass the budget.

Roy Riggitano confirmed that was true.

Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon both stated that was not true.

Mayor Kim stated the point was he wasn't trying to blame anyone.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon replied yes, he was.

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Councilman Min told Mayor Kim not to forget when the budget was adopted there was a – Mayor Kim interjected and stated to stop micromanaging.

Mayor Kim stated both Councilman Min and Councilwoman Won-Yoon both had to stop micromanaging.

Councilman Min stated to not fall for this.

Mayor Kim stated the two council members would create so many lawsuits.

Councilman Min stated no and questioned Mayor Kims statement “you guys would create so many lawsuits” when he was a part of the lawsuit.

Mayor Kim asked he was part of the lawsuit.

Councilman Min stated he was, and asked how then.

Mayor Kim stated it was because he was the mayor.

Roy Riggitano stated his final answer was hostile work environment.

Mayor Kim stated if they wanted to go further there were emails from Roy Riggitano that stated certain areas where the prior Finance Committee should have figured out since the parking meters didn't work, and legal fees were increasing. Mayor Kim stated they never went back to talk to Roy Riggitano about what happened.

Councilman Min asked if anyone specifically pointed out that they were going to be short on legal.

Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano did.

Councilman Min stated no.

Mayor Kim replied it was right over there, and asked if Councilman Min wanted him to read it.

Councilman Min asked Mayor Kim to go ahead.

Mayor Kim read to himself and asked everyone to give him a second. Mayor Kim stated they had to stop micromanaging.

Councilman Min questioned micromanaging.

Mayor Kim stated he was micromanaging.

Councilman Min stated all councilmembers who had a seat could go back and forth and ask any questions.

Mayor Kim stated Councilman Min was telling the CFO who was certified to do certain things because Councilman Min knew better than him which was micromanaging. Mayor Kim asked if Councilman Min understood that and hoped he got that straight.

Councilman Min stated the money had already been exhausted from the budget back in September 2025.

Mayor Kim stated on April 18, 2025 the CFO warned the Finance Committee that the \$400 per household was not enough and would lead to debt. Mayor Kim stated it was also mentioned that Councilman Min was micromanaging and needed to stop. Mayor Kim stated it was all in the email, and he would provide Councilman Min with a copy when the meeting had concluded. Mayor Kim continued and stated on August 8, 2025 there was another incident of micromanaging the library. Mayor Kim stated the two council members were rebutting that Roy Riggitano was wrong when he was right.

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Councilman Min began to respond but Mayor Kim stated he would just send them the email to review. Mayor Kim stated October 7, 2025 Roy Riggitano stated in an email that they couldn't spend too much money because they had a court, legal, and parking meter issues. Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano was giving all these warnings. On October 23, 2025 there was a 2025 budget status meeting which was never talked about regarding if they were going over the budget or not. Mayor Kim stated they dwelled on things they wanted to figure out. Mayor Kim stated the problem was this, he expected council members to not keep certain information to themselves that they worked hard for the people to obtain. Mayor Kim continued that he expected them to let other council members know as well as the himself. Mayor Kim stated that he didn't know they negotiated with Roy Riggitano into approving \$400 per household or else. Mayor Kim repeated he didn't know that.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she didn't know either, and stated Roy Riggitano talked to Mayor Kim first.

Councilman Min stated Roy Riggitano spoke with Mayor Kim first.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated again Roy Riggitano spoke to Mayor Kim first.

Mayor Kim asked Roy Riggitano if he spoke to Mayor Kim about the \$400. Mayor Kim stated Roy Riggitano had evidence, and stated moving forward he didn't want any more lawsuits or liabilities and asked they stopped micromanaging employees.

Councilman Shin had a comment. Councilman Shin stated when he moved into Palisades Park in 1990, he lived on the border of Leonia and Palisades Park. Councilman Shin stated whenever it snowed, Leonia always removed the snow over an hour before Palisades Park removed their snow. Councilman Shin stated at that time he could see who was diligent. Councilman Shin stated in 1990 he regretted living in Palisades Park. Councilman Shin stated everyone could see that winter they were experiencing a lot of snow. Councilman Shin stated the DPW worked very hard to remove the snow reducing accidents, and creating convenient commute. Councilman Shin stated he was proud of the DPW's work and hoped they would continue. Councilman Shin stated he knew they worked hard, but asked them to work a bit earlier to help avoid traffic accidents. Councilman Shin asked that they keep him proud to be a part of Palisades Park.

Mayor Kim asked Roberta Stern to listen to Councilman Shin and thanked him. Mayor Kim asked if that was Councilman Shins report.

Councilman Shin confirmed it was.

Mayor Kim stated Councilman Shin made a good point the year before that one of the reasons they were incurring so much overage fees was because the DPW had been gracious to residents any time they wanted. Mayor Kim stated they would pick up garbage when it was not the residents scheduled day. Mayor Kim stated they needed to figure out a way to create a schedule to reduce the expenditures. Mayor Kim stated there were no towns that provided that kind of service where residents could call at any time to pick things up for them. Mayor Kim asked for the DPW to work with Councilman Shin and Roberta Stern to create a schedule.

Roberta Stern stated another thing they had to put in either an ordinance or resolution was that the town was not responsible to pick up things when people were moving out as the town did not provide clean out service.

Mayor Kim stated that was the problem.

Roberta Stern stated that was what had been killing them, and she had never allowed that.

Allan Roth stated it'd have to go into an ordinance.

Roberta Stern replied then they had to get that done because the town shouldn't have been doing clean outs. Roberta Stern stated there was 1-800 Lug Junk, 1-800 Got Junk, and she had given those numbers out to people previously. Roberta Stern repeated they should not have been doing clean outs.

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Mayor Kim stated the year before there was a huge flood and there was a lot of garbage that the DPW picked up for residents. Mayor Kim stated Charlie Chung who was the Deputy Superintendent of the DPW could contest and agree that happened. Mayor Kim stated that plus residents requesting pickups all day was not feasible. Mayor Kim repeated they had to work on that so that they could re-budget and figure out a good plan, and schedule. Mayor Kim stated they could then create how much savings they could make and give it to Roy Riggitano to put into the deduction.

Roberta Stern stated plus doing away with clean outs.

Mayor Kim stated that was good.

Councilman Shin stated the DPW was suffering in terms of man power so they would discuss that with the borough administrator, and Kenny Bruno to figure something out.

Mayor Kim thanked Councilman Shin.

Councilman Min did not have anything to report.

Councilman Kwak reported from the Recreation Department that they wanted to announce their September 26, 2026 street festival that he was very excited for.

Mayor Kim asked Councilman Kwak to repeat the date.

Councilman Kwak stated Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 12PM-7PM tentatively scheduled to change to a rain date if necessary. Councilman Kwak stated their draw from that was that the image of Palisades Park was a lot better because they had been able to create a great street festival for the past two years since the 125th anniversary. Councilman Kwak stated they were only getting bigger and better and urged residents to tell their friends and family. Councilman Kwak stated no matter what happened there that night, Palisades Park was still their home and community. Councilman Kwak stated they were there to create great events for the families to enjoy their lives in town and not create problems. Councilman Kwak stated the Recreation Department had a lot of great things in the works. Councilman Kwak reported that indoor soccer had been doing well and about 80-90 students came every night Friday through Sunday until 8:30PM. Councilman Kwak stated they had a lot of people in town that loved soccer and hoped to improve and highlight these events for the kids and families. Councilman Kwak reported regarding the library he wanted to welcome the new president Alessandro Monteleone and vice president Barnabas Woo. Councilman Kwak stated they had a good library meeting and they had plans in terms of improving and highlighting programs culturally for the town. Councilman Kwak stated he wanted to add outside of his report that they shouldn't have session outbursts from either side. Councilman Kwak stated they all had to present themselves together as a unified front. Councilman Kwak stated he truly meant all of them to find a solution. Councilman Kwak stated this happened in 2025 when he wasn't on the council. They voted and passed it and it was history. Councilman Kwak stated history didn't affect what they were now, and stated in the present they were fixing problems. Councilman Kwak stated he would find every solution so that the residents didn't pay for the situations they were in. Councilman Kwak implored all council members to help him make everything better. Councilman Kwak stated this was a situation where it didn't matter who they blamed because he didn't care. Their job was to work together to improve the town and not hate on each other. Councilman Kwak stated this was not a soapbox for the elections, he didn't care what they were or what they did. Councilman Kwak stated the council should work for the residents and not for themselves even himself. Councilman Kwak stated these were the things they had to focus on and their job was for the public.

Mayor Kim stated as the newly elected council member had suggested which he hadn't thought about but thought was good was regarding how they were going to make and save money that year for the budget. Mayor Kim stated this council member suggested checking out tax liens to see if there was property that the borough could purchase and sell. Mayor Kim stated those were the ideas he was looking for instead of just saying no he needed solutions.

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Councilman Donohue reported he had been at a few meetings for the library which had been productive, and a few police meetings with Councilman Shin. Councilman Donohue stated he had to say all of the officers were highly competent and well as the police director. Councilman Donohue stated he learned a lot about the police budget when they were hiring the code enforcement officer. Councilman Donohue stated he was very impressed with that but also wanted to say something else aside from his report. Councilman Donohue stated they should tone down the rederick but invited conversation, and engagement from all council members. Councilman Donohue stated he enjoyed lively discussions and disagreement because people could disagree about moving forward but he believed keeping things moving forward was important. Councilman Donohue stated he believed there was something that could be done to help them in the future regarding taxes and providing quality service in town. Councilman Donohue jokingly stated he would get off his high horse.

Mayor Kim thanked him and asked if the meeting went well with the library.

Councilman Donohue confirmed it did.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated her standing committees were Community Affairs, and the other was Environmental and Beautification. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated for both, she didn't believe there were committees therefore the mayor had to appoint members.

Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon had to talk to Roberta Stern.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated the committee had to be seven members appointed by the mayor's appointment for each committee according to the code.

Mayor Kim stated for what.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon repeated her standing committees.

Mayor Kim asked Allan Roth to explain.

Allan Roth stated he didn't hear Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon to explain.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated in the borough code Chapter 14 there was a Community Affairs Committee that stated the mayor had to appoint seven members to form a committee. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated for Environmental and Beautification Committee, that was in Chapter 28 which also required a committee which they did not have.

Mayor Kim stated Councilwoman Won-Yoon was saying she read through the ordinances as best as she could, and she found that he had to create committee members to work with them. Mayor Kim asked if he was correct.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon replied exactly.

Mayor Kim stated Community Affairs and Environmental.

Allan Roth asked if those were two commissions they did not have.

Mayor Kim stated he asked if Roberta Stern could take care of that and to review the ordinance to see if Councilwoman Won-Yoon was right. Mayor Kim stated if she was correct to let him know and he would set up committee members.

Roberta Stern stated they did have it and just had to appoint people.

Mayor Kim repeated they did have the Environmental Committee.

Allan Roth asked them to hold on.

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Mayor Kim stated for Community Affairs he wasn't sure if they had a committee for that.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had to know.

Mayor Kim stated he would let her know. Mayor Kim stated he had an updated version of his mayor's appointment list. Mayor Kim stated he was going to work on it before he went home after the meeting to see who the members were for the Environmental Committee. Mayor Kim stated he didn't think they had members for Community Affairs. Mayor Kim stated if there were he would let Councilwoman Won-Yoon know but as far as the Environmental Committee went, he would provide her with a list. Mayor Kim stated after that Councilwoman Won-Yoon could work on that and work on a report. Mayor Kim stated to summarize, he thought the meeting was very good and everyone said what they needed to say. Mayor Kim stated they tried to make sure they were all understanding the same thing because without understanding the same thing they would be all over the place. Mayor Kim stated it was a productive meeting, and found out there was a Community Affairs Committee which he would provide to Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Mayor Kim stated the list was already presented at the Reorganization Meeting which Councilwoman Won-Yoon had a copy of. Mayor Kim stated he would resend her the list. Mayor Kim stated he hoped everyone understood that Sophia Jang required full time help as fast as possible. Mayor Kim stated other than that he would make his report at the Regular Session.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Allan Roth stated they would go into an Executive Meeting regarding the settlements for his report.

BA REPORT

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated she would make her report at the Regular Meeting.

POLICE REPORT

Police Director Michael Gardner reported the new parking kiosks were up and running. They had some glitches and found out that day that there was a tower that went down resulting in some of the screens appearing black. Director Gardner stated they had someone check out the black screens that day for a half hour and there were no issues with the screen. Director Gardner stated sometimes people were pressing the credit card option and attempted to put in money. When they did that, the machines became jammed. Director Gardner stated a lot of the time it was user error and they would try to educate people as best as they could. Director Gardner stated any complaints they had were addressed that day. Director Gardner stated Chief Beck as well as himself went to a function for Korean Veterans from Vietnam. Director Gardner stated they took Chief Beck up on his offer for them to come in and see the police department and would be arriving the following day. Director Gardner stated they were going to give them a walk through of the police department and explain how things went. Director Gardner stated they sent Roy Riggitano an email that he could attest to, regarding the product report regarding parking meters. Director Gardner stated he believed they were over and above what was predicted from the previous year. Director Gardner stated people were doing their jobs and getting things done. Director Gardner stated enforcement was up and there were a few tickets issue that shouldn't have been issued. Director Gardner stated not only was the ticket addressed but the officers were also addressed as to why it shouldn't have been a ticket so it didn't happen again. Director Gardner stated this was something that hadn't happened in the past, and affidavits weren't believed in, nor addressing the issues with the person writing the tickets so it didn't happen again. Director Gardner stated they also had a text message group chat with all special and traffic officers. In this group chat they would include issues to be addressed so everyone was on the same page like a virtual meeting so it didn't have to be taken up with officers individually.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if the app was available to pay for parking.

Director Gardner replied he believed it was and stated there were four different ways to pay including cash, credit card, tap pay, and app pay. Director Gardner asked if the app was working.

Roberta Stern stated she thought so.

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Mayor Kim stated they were adding more apps so that consumers had a choice.

Roberta Stern began to mention some like ParkMobile but Mayor Kim asked if he could finish. Mayor Kim stated one good thing about the app was that they didn't have to provide personal information. Mayor Kim stated they didn't have to use the app and could go to the borough website and pay for parking without entering personal information.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she had a particular resident asking for the app and asked if there was any instruction on that located on parking stations.

Mayor Kim replied no, when the app was downloaded there were instructions on the app.

Director Gardner stated he didn't know as far as putting instruction at the parking stations regarding the app.

Mayor Kim stated he couldn't do that.

Director Gardner stated he believed if they went on the police website, it outlined how to download and use the app. Director Gardner stated if they used the app there was no point of going to the parking kiosk.

Mayor Kim stated once the app was opened there were instructions on how to use the app.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she could reference the website for use.

Mayor Kim stated again if they used the website they wouldn't have to enter any private information.

Councilman Shin stated the parking meters were the most advanced functions and listed the six ways to pay. Councilman Shin stated the machines accepted coins, credit card, text, touch pay, app, and QR code. Councilman Shin repeated the meters were expensive but had the most convenient ways for people to pay.

Mayor Kim stated they were actually creating revenue, compared to the old meters. Mayor Kim stated before Director Gardner left, he wanted to emphasize in front of all the council Resolution 2026-56, appointing the police director. Mayor Kim stated he wanted to emphasize the important role Director Gardner held throughout 2025. Mayor Kim stated Director Gardner revolutionized the police department, did fleet management, accredited the department, and now took care of the traffic officers and special officers.

Director Gardner added that he also supervised the code enforcement officer and – Mayor Kim interjected and stated the list went on.

Mayor Kim stated council members saw four pages of everything the director had done and just wanted to recognize that Director Gardner was important personnel and he thanked him for that.

Director Gardner stated the key issue to that was that they had the prosecutors report out, and consultant reports, that stated the police department had not functioned well in the past because of political involvement. Director Gardner stated if they took away his position then it went back to the Mayor and Council being the appropriate authority which resulted in them making all the decisions.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't want to touch that at that time.

Director Gardner stated if they took a step back, they may have seen themselves in a position being challenged for the accreditation.

Mayor Kim stated he didn't recommend the Mayor and Council got involved in suspensions or internal investigations especially when the Attorney General, and Prosecutors' Office deemed there was too much involvement from the borough administrator and Mayor and Council. Mayor

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Kim stated Director Gardner was making sure they didn't get involved too much and thanked him.

ENGINEER REPORTS

Roberta Stern stated the engineer could not make the meeting but would be present for the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Mayor Kim remembered Councilman Kwak had a question.

Councilman Kwak asked if there was signage for the apps on street signs.

Director Gardner stated he would speak to Captain Rotundo the following day to find out if they could post it on the board outside.

Mayor Kim stated that was a good point.

Councilman Kwak stated in Fort Lee they had the zone numbers marked for pay by phone.

Mayor Kim stated so they knew the options they had.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public.

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

Mayor Kim reminded the public that they had three minutes each to speak about whatever they wanted.

Ernst Beerley stated he had a couple of things. Mr. Beerley stated they had two snowfalls one on Saturday and the other on Sunday. Mr. Beerley stated he believed the town had regulations on shoveling sidewalks. Mr. Beerley stated he liked to walk and noticed three properties that did not shovel their sidewalks resulting in it turning to ice. Mr. Beerley asked who was responsible for giving tickets for not shoveling the sidewalks.

Mayor Kim stated Mr. Beerley had to call the code enforcer to go to the property and give the residents a 24-hour notice period to clean the sidewalk.

Roberta Stern stated she wasn't sure what the towns was.

Mr. Beerley stated 12 hours was fair for a snow storm.

Mayor Kim stated after 12 hours if they didn't clean the sidewalk then the police department had to be notified so that could contact the code enforcer.

Mr. Beerley stated Mayor Kim was telling him he had to report everything when right across the street the whole sidewalk was ice.

Mayor Kim stated he would go there for him and asked Mr. Beerley for his address.

Mr. Beerley stated he didn't know the address and stated it was right across from the borough with the storefront.

Mayor Kim stated on Cleveland Place from the storefront by their parking lot and sidewalk.

Mr. Beerley stated it was the same with the corner house at the bottom of Cleveland Place.

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Mayor Kim repeated they should take a look at all of Cleveland Place and asked the police director to ask the Code Enforcer Peter Kim to take a look. Mayor Kim stated after that, the DPW may want to step in and put some salt down.

Mr. Beerley asked why the property owner wasn't responsible for putting down salt.

Mayor Kim asked why Mr. Beerley was talking about this and asked why he didn't speak with the property owner. Mayor Kim stated they were trying to remedy the issue and stated the code enforcer would check it out and if the issue wasn't fixed, he would issue a ticket and put down salt.

Mr. Beerley asked if the property owner would be charged for the salt.

Mayor Kim replied Lord have mercy.

Roberta Stern asked what else.

Mr. Beerley asked when someone resigned if there was a policy in place for an exit interview to protect the town. Mr. Beerley asked when a person was interviewed to be hired were they also interviewed to exit.

Mayor Kim stated he had never heard of that before and asked Roberta Stern if she had.

Mr. Beerley stated it had been done in the manufacture industry.

Roberta Stern stated yes but not in municipality.

Allan Roth stated there were few municipalities that did this and those that did had large HR departments since procedure took time.

Mayor Kim stated they didn't have an HR Department.

Allan Roth stated small boroughs usually didn't.

Roberta Stern stated most of the resignations were employees that had been with the borough over 25 years and were retiring.

Mayor Kim asked what an exit interview was.

Roberta Stern stated if someone was leaving, employers could sit them down and go over a certain number of questions to find out why they were deciding to leave.

Mayor Kim stated basically a questionnaire.

Roberta Stern stated the questions included why they were leaving, and if there were issues with their boss. The reason they didn't see it that often in municipal was because it usually wasn't the way things happened. Roberta Stern stated she had to do that one time and not because it was the principal of the borough but because she was concerned about the person and wanted to protect the borough. Roberta Stern stated so far everyone that had left the borough had been retiring since she had been there. Roberta Stern stated one person left because they moved out of the country, another because had to take care of their parent, therefore there was no reason for an exit interview.

Mayor Kim stated he learned something and thanked her.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public participation and return to the Work Session.

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

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EXECUTIVE MEETING

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and enter the executive meeting.

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

Allan Roth stated they would not be long.

Following the Executive Session, Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the Executive Meeting and return to the Work Session.

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

ADJOURN

Mayor Kim requested a motion to adjourn.

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

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC

Borough Clerk