

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

Regular Session
of the Mayor & Council
June 23, 2026

Borough of Palisades Park Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

MAYOR CHONG PAUL KIM WILL CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00PM

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The required public notice statement was read into the record, confirming that notice of this meeting was filed on January 13, 2026, with The Record and the Newark Star Ledger, the Borough's two official newspapers; that notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and on the Borough website at palisadesparknj.org; and that a copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of silence was led by Council President Lee.

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

- Special Meeting of Mayor and Council — April 6, 2026
- Executive Session of Mayor and Council — April 6, 2026
- Work Session of the Mayor and Council — April 21, 2026
- Executive Session of Mayor and Council — April 21, 2026
- Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council — April 28, 2026
- Executive Session of Mayor and Council — April 28, 2026
- Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council — May 26, 2026
- Executive Session of the Mayor and Council — May 26, 2026

Councilman Shin requested that the April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes be tabled, and Councilman Min requested that the May 26, 2026 Executive Session minutes be tabled. Mayor Kim confirmed that both sets of minutes would be removed from consideration and requested a motion to adopt the remaining meeting minutes, excluding the April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting and May 26, 2026 Executive Session minutes.

Presentation of 2026 Recycling Scholarships

Mayor Kim announced a second set of \$500 scholarships funded through the DPW's annual state grant program. He stated that the scholarship checks were not available that evening but would be provided the following week. For recipients who were unable to attend, he would deliver the certificates and checks to the Board of Education.

Mayor Kim recognized the scholarship recipients: Jeremy Lee, Claire Kwon, Ariana Guaman, Madison Park, Christopher Kasparian, and Demetrius Lakkas. He stated that it appeared some recipients had not been notified about the recognition. A member of the audience identified himself as Demetrius Lakkas's father and explained that Demetrius was working and had not received information regarding the scholarship presentation. Mayor Kim thanked him and stated that he would follow up the following week.

Presentation of 2026 Mayor's Bright Hope Scholarships

Mayor Kim recognized the 2026 Palisades Park High School graduates receiving the Mayor's Bright Future Scholarships, which he funds annually through weddings he officiates. He explained that recipients are selected by Board of Education faculty, with the mayor also making a personal selection.

Mayor Kim awarded \$1,000 scholarships to nine students in recognition of their academic achievement and community service: Maya Huh, Joel Uzodimma, Chloe Poon, Katherine Diaz Arnaud, Lightbert Cho, Kelly Himbaza, Genesis Duarte, Eratzy Ortega, and Valerie Ramirez. He congratulated the recipients and encouraged them to carry the values of resilience, kindness, leadership, and community service into their future endeavors.

Mayor Kim stated that graduates unable to attend would receive their certificates and scholarship checks through the Board of Education. A group photograph was taken with the recipients and council members. He also thanked the students for an appreciation letter they had presented to him.

Swearing-In Ceremony for New Police Officers

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that the resolution needed to be passed first. Mayor Kim explained that the Council would proceed out of the usual order by addressing the off-consent agenda first to obtain approval for two police officers to attend the Police Academy. Mayor Kim commended the Police Committee, Councilman Donohue, and Councilman Shin for their work and asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 2026-182 and 2026-183.

The Borough Clerk read into the record the Off Consent Agenda resolutions authorizing the appointments: Resolution 2026-182, authorizing the hiring and appointment of Police Officer Tong Lee, and Resolution 2026-183, authorizing the hiring and appointment of Police Officer Jayden Dorilas. Both resolutions were voted on separately before the swearing-in ceremonies proceeded.

Resolution 2026-182 — Authorizing the Hiring and Appointment of Police Officer Tong Lee.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Shin. Roll Call Vote: Councilman Donohue Yes; Councilman Kwak Yes; Councilwoman Lee Yes; Councilman Min Yes; Councilman Shin Yes; Councilwoman Won-Yoon Yes. Motion carried

Resolution 2026-183 — Authorizing the Hiring and Appointment of Police Officer

Jayden Dorilas. Motion made by Councilwoman Won-Yoon; seconded by Councilman Shin.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Donohue — Yes; Councilman Kwak — Yes; Councilwoman Lee — Yes; Councilman Min — Yes; Councilman Shin — Yes; Councilwoman Won-Yoon — Yes. Motion carried

Councilman Shin, Chair of the Police Committee, announced the appointment of Jayden Dorilas, Badge No. 343, as a Police Officer. He highlighted Dorilas's athletic and academic background, including an athletic scholarship at the University of New Haven, experience as a basketball program director and head coach, and his prior year of service as a Traffic Enforcement Officer with the Palisades Park Police Department. Councilman Shin stated Dorilas's reliability, professionalism, work ethic, and dedication, and stated that he successfully completed the required background investigation, medical testing, and psychological evaluation.

Mayor Kim administered the Police Officer Oath of Office to Dorilas and thanked Police Chief George Beck, Captain James Rotundo, Lieutenant Chris Beck, and Director Michael Gardner for their service.

Mayor Kim then announced the selection of Tong Lee for the police academy. Councilman Donohue introduced Lee, noting that he was a Palisades Park native, graduated with highest honors from Bergen County Technical High School, and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Miami. Lee had professional experience in business and technology and previously served as a Special Law Enforcement Officer with the Palisades Park Police Department. Councilman Donohue stated Lee's strong work ethic and successful completion of the required psychological, medical, and background evaluations.

Mayor Kim administered the Police Officer Oath of Office to Lee. Both Dorilas and Lee briefly addressed the governing body. Dorilas expressed gratitude for the opportunity and stated his commitment to serving the public. Lee expressed pride in joining the Palisades Park Police Department and thanked his parents, God, and Jesus for guiding him on his path.

Mayor Kim then introduced the senior police leadership present at the ceremony: Chief Baek, Captain Jimmy Rotundo, Lieutenant Chris Beck, and Police Director Mike Garner, each of whom received a round of applause from the assembly.

Swearing-In of Officer Jayden Dorilas

Council President Shin, in his capacity as Chair of the Police Committee, read the official biography of Officer Jayden Dorilas. Councilman Shin stated that it was his great honor to present the bio. Jayden Dorilas, age 22, was described as a former standout high school football player who went on to attend the University of New Haven on an athletic scholarship. He established himself in the athletic community as a basketball program director and head coach, overseeing highly competitive youth basketball programs. Over the prior year, Dorilas had served as a Traffic Enforcement Officer with the Palisades Park Police Department, where he was said to have "constantly performed at a high level, demonstrating exceptional reliability, professionalism, and dedication." Councilman Shin stated that Dorilas was known for his strong work ethic, punctuality, willingness to take on any assignment, and his collaborative nature. Following a thorough assessment by departmental leadership, Dorilas had earned the respect and admiration of supervisors, teammates, coworkers, and community members. He had successfully passed all required background investigations, medical testing, and psychological evaluations. Councilman Shin concluded by stating that "Jayden will be a valuable addition to the Palisades Park Police Department."

Mayor Kim then administered the Oath of Office to Jayden Dorilas, who repeated the oath affirming his support of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and his commitment to faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all duties of the office of Police Officer. Officer Dorilas was congratulated by the Mayor and governing body, and a group photograph was taken.

Officer Dorilas briefly addressed those assembled, expressing gratitude to the Mayor, the Council, the Police Committee, and the police administration, stating: "I'm very grateful for this opportunity. Thank you for everyone having the faith to hire me as a police officer."

Swearing-In of Officer Tong Lee

Councilman Frank Donohue, in his capacity as a member of the Police Committee, read the official biography of Officer Tong Lee. Tong Lee, age 29, was born and raised in Palisades Park. He attended Bergen County Technical High School in Teterboro, graduating with highest honors, and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Miami. He developed a professional background in business and technology, having served as an operations specialist and technical support professional, gaining experience in problem solving, operations management, and customer service. The prior year, Lee joined the Palisades Park Police Department as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, where he again earned highest honors for academic achievement at the Police Academy. Councilman Donohue stated that Lee had "consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and supervisors alike." Having successfully completed all psychological, medical, and background evaluations, Councilman Donohue stated that Lee's "strong educational background, analytical skills, and commitment to public service make him an exceptional asset to the department and the community." Councilman Donohue welcomed him to the force.

Officer Lee's mother was invited to hold the Bible during the oath, and his father was also acknowledged. Mayor Kim administered the Oath of Office to Tong Lee, who repeated the oath in full. Following the signing of the oath documentation, Officer Lee was congratulated by the Mayor and governing body. Group photographs were taken.

The Mayor stated that the large number of off-duty officers who attended the ceremony on their own time was a testament to the spirit and cohesion within the Palisades Park Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Kim indicated that an executive session concerning litigation had originally been scheduled to occur at this point in the agenda. The Mayor moved it to the conclusion of the meeting to allow the public the opportunity to attend the regular session first, stating, "We'll move the executive session to the end so people could come join our meeting, and we'll leave the executive to the end."

Introduction of Ordinance

Ordinance 2026-16 — Establishment of Ordinance for the Storage of Salt and Other Solid De-Icing Materials on Property Not Owned or Operated by the Municipality (Privately-Owned), Including Residences, in the Borough of Palisades Park

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-16 into the record. Mayor Kim asked if there were any questions or concerns from the governing body prior to the vote on first reading. There were none.

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-16 made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Shin. **Roll Call Vote:**

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Motion carried

Ordinance 2026-17 — Establishment of Ordinance for Proper Management of Residential Yard Waste in the Borough of Palisades Park — Stricken at Work Session

Ordinance 2026-18 — An Ordinance to Prohibit the Feeding of Unconfined Wildlife in Any Public Park or On Any Other Property Owned or Operated by the Borough of Palisades Park — Stricken at Work Session

Ordinance 2026-19 — An Ordinance to Prohibit Illicit Connections to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System(s) Operated by the Borough of Palisades Park — Stricken at Work Session

Ordinance 2026-20 — An Ordinance to Establish Requirements for the Proper Disposal of Pet Solid Waste in the Borough of Palisades Park — Stricken at Work Session

Ordinance 2026-21 — Calendar Year 2026 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Cost of Living Allowance and Establish a Cap Bank

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-21 into the record.

Mayor Kim invited questions from the governing body on first reading. There were none.

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-21 made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Motion carried

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2026-12 — Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Public Improvements In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park, Appropriating \$915,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-12 into the record.

Mayor Kim stated that this was the second public meeting for this ordinance and invited questions from the governing body.

Councilman Shin asked for a breakdown of the grant components embedded within the \$915,000 bond ordinance, specifically inquiring as to "what the amount of the grant" was. Mayor Kim confirmed the total appropriation was \$915,000. Councilman Shin then pressed further on the detail of the amounts, noting some confusion. Council President Shin then provided a breakdown: the bond was divided into three sections — Section A totaling \$360,000 in bond authorization from which \$249,000 would be derived from grant funding; Section B totaling \$300,000 in bond authorization from which \$196,000 would be derived from grant funding; and Section C totaling \$255,000 in bond authorization from which \$174,000 would be derived from grant funding. The Borough Attorney clarified that the ordinance was prepared by Bond Counsel, and that the numbers presented by Bond Counsel are inclusive of all associated costs. The Attorney stated that this structure is consistent with how all prior bond ordinances have been prepared in the Borough, and offered to obtain additional information from Bond Counsel if desired. Councilman Shin acknowledged the explanation. Mayor Kim stated the improvements covered included the Broad Avenue streetscape project and 12th Street resurfacing.

The public hearing was opened. No members of the public came forward to speak on Ordinance 2026-12.

Motion to open the public hearing made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Donohue. All in favor. Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session made by Councilwoman Won-Yoon; seconded by Councilman Kwak. All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-12 made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Motion carried

Ordinance 2026-13 — Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Resurfacing of Various Roads In, By and For the Borough of Palisades Park, Appropriating \$420,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-13 into the record.

Mayor Kim stated this was the second reading and invited questions. No questions were raised by the governing body.

The public hearing was opened. No members of the public came forward to speak on Ordinance 2026-13.

Motion to open the public hearing made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All in favor. Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session made by Councilman Shin; seconded by Councilwoman Lee. All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-13 made by Councilman Kwak; seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried

Ordinance 2026-14 — Amending Chapter 247 "Sewers" of the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-14 into the record. Mayor Kim invited questions. No questions were raised by the governing body. Mayor Kim offered a brief explanation to the public during the public hearing, stating that the sewer code was being updated in anticipation of development coming to the Borough particularly in connection with builder remedy projects.

The public hearing was opened. No members of the public came forward to speak on Ordinance 2026-14.

Motion to open the public hearing made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilman Shin. All in favor. Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Donohue. All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-14 made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Donohue	Yes
Councilman Kwak	Yes
Councilwoman Lee	Yes
Councilman Min	Yes
Councilman Shin	Yes
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Yes

Motion carried

Ordinance 2026-15 — Amending the Code of the Borough of Palisades Park to Authorize the Borough Clerk to Approve Certain Annual Raffle License Applications

The Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance 2026-15 into the record. Mayor Kim invited questions. Councilman Shin requested confirmation that newly applying organizations — those that were not pre-existing, recurring applicants — would be notified of and brought before the appropriate process under this ordinance. Mayor Kim confirmed that this was the case. Mayor Kim also stated the purpose of the ordinance: to create a more expedited and less redundant process for the approval of routine raffle license applications.

The public hearing was opened. No members of the public came forward to speak on Ordinance 2026-15.

Motion to open the public hearing made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Shin. All in favor. Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-15 made by Councilman Kwak; seconded by Councilman Donohue. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried

OFF CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2026-192 — Introduction of Municipal Budget Year of 2026 — Passed at Work Session.

Prior to proceeding to the Consent Agenda, Mayor Kim and the Borough Attorney stated that two additional resolutions originally on the agenda were being removed. Resolution 2026-188 Designating Tamares Management LLC, or an Affiliated Entity, as Redeveloper, and Authorizing Entry into and Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement was pulled because the settlement agreement with the parties had not yet been finalized. The Borough Attorney explained that as of approximately 3:30 PM that afternoon, the attorney for Tom O'Malley had indicated that final changes to the settlement might still be forthcoming. The Borough Attorney stated she was unwilling to bring a document with further unresolved changes to the Council, and that all parties were in contact with the court to seek an extension of the July 15th deadline. The matter was expected to return to the governing body at or before the next workshop meeting. Resolution 2026-189 — Hiring of Borough Intern (Re: J. Kim) was also pulled as the applicant had decided not to continue.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 2026-165 Councilwoman Won-Yoon raised a concern that the claims list appeared to include only one of the two expected bimonthly payroll entries for June — specifically the June 5th payroll — while the June 19th payroll appeared to be absent, noting that the overall total seemed lower than in prior months. The Borough Administrator acknowledged that there had been computer and email transmission issues between the Clerk's office and the Finance office, and that the bills list in the distributed packet was dated June 13th, predating the most recent updated version sent on June 22nd. The Borough Attorney then confirmed that she had received a direct communication from the CFO stating that both payrolls — for June 3rd and June 18th — were in fact included in the up-to-date bills list. It was agreed that the CFO would transmit the corrected, complete document to all members of the governing body. Councilman Min stated that since payroll had already been paid, the practical impact was limited regardless, and the governing body agreed to proceed.

Resolution 2026-166 Councilman Shin raised a question about which license holders were not included in the current renewal resolution. The Borough Clerk explained that the annual liquor license renewals are typically processed at the end of June, requiring holders to have a state tax clearance, payment of state fees, and payment of the Borough fee of \$2,500. This year, three or four licensees including Evergreen, the Grand Avenue establishment, and at least one other had not yet cleared their tax obligations. Those holders would be issued ad interim licenses, and their renewals would be brought before the Council at a subsequent meeting once clearances were in hand. The Clerk confirmed the Borough has approximately 30 total liquor licenses, with approximately 26 being renewed at this meeting, and four subject to the ad interim process. Councilman Shin also inquired about a specific license holder, NFC Park LLC at 57 Grand Avenue, noting it appeared to have been renewed in both June and July of the prior year. The Borough Clerk acknowledged this was likely due to a license transfer situation in 2025 and committed to researching and reporting back.

Resolution 2026-184 Appointment of Municipal Representative to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee.

Councilman Shin stated he himself the appointee is on this resolution. A brief discussion ensued regarding whether Councilman Shin could vote on a resolution appointing himself. The Borough Attorney confirmed there was no legal impediment to Councilman Shin voting on his own appointment in this context.

Resolution 2026-194 Payment to Trio Condominium

Councilwoman Won-Yoon raised a question about the payment history related to Trio Condominiums, asking about the status of the 2023 payment. The Borough Attorney clarified that a one-time resolution passed under the Albanese contract covered both calendar years 2022 and 2023, that the 2023 amount had already been paid, and that the current resolution addressed outstanding amounts for 2024, 2025, and a portion of 2026.

Councilman Shin voted yes on all included resolutions, with a stated exception of no votes on Resolutions 2026-169, 2026-171, 2026-173, 2026-174, 2026-175, 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, and 2026-185. Councilwoman Won-Yoon voted yes on all included resolutions with stated no votes on Resolutions 2026-173, 2026-174, 2026-175, 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, and 2026-185.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, comprising Resolutions 2026-165, 2026-166, 2026-167, 2026-168, 2026-169, 2026-171, 2026-172, 2026-173, 2026-174, 2026-175, 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, 2026-179, 2026-181, 2026-184, 2026-185, 2026-186, 2026-187, 2026-190, 2026-191, 2026-193, and 2026-194, with Resolutions 2026-188 and 2026-189 stricken, made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilman Kwak.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Donohue — Yes on all;

Councilman Kwak — Yes on all;

Councilwoman Lee — Yes on all;

Councilman Min — Yes on all;

Councilman Shin — Yes, with No votes on Resolutions 2026-169, 2026-171, 2026-173, 2026-174, 2026-175, 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, and 2026-185;

Councilwoman Won-Yoon — Yes, with No votes on Resolutions 2026-173, 2026-174, 2026-175, 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, and 2026-185.

Consent Agenda carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Lee explained Resolutions 2026-190 and 2026-191, which were intended to establish greater structure and professionalism within Borough operations. Resolution 2026-190 established a formal hiring process requiring full-time positions to be posted on the Borough website and interviews to include the department head and relevant Council committee members. Supervisor and managerial positions would also include the Borough Administrator. Councilwoman Lee stated that including multiple individuals in the interview process would provide additional oversight and promote fairness.

Resolution 2026-191 established mid-year and year-end performance evaluations for all Borough employees, with evaluations conducted between June and July and November and December, respectively. The Borough Administrator would develop evaluation criteria in collaboration with each department. The Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, and Police Director would have a separate evaluation process due to their leadership responsibilities, including written input from the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Lee stated that establishing these procedures would help define the Borough's institutional standards and promote professionalism. She also reminded the Council that the budget hearing would take place at the July 21 Work Session.

Mayor Kim congratulated Councilwoman Lee for spearheading the resolutions and thanked her and Borough Attorney Allan Roth for establishing the structure and standard procedures the Borough needed.

Councilman Shin had no report

Councilman Min had no report.

Councilman Kwak reported on several community events, including the World Cup watch parties, summer camp registration, and Family Swim Night scheduled for June 29. He also discussed the upcoming library façade project, expected to begin in July and take approximately four weeks. He addressed concerns regarding disruptive behavior and smoking at the library and stated that appropriate signage would be posted. He also reported on flooding at the library's emergency stairwell and stated that solutions were being explored to prevent further water damage. He praised the Recreation Department for organizing a successful Knicks watch party on short notice, obtaining sponsors and food donations, and thanked the Police Department for assisting with the event. He also recognized Councilman Donohue for Senior Swim Night and Mayor Kim for his work on scholarships.

Councilman Donohue reported that the Recreation Department had several activities planned and that three individuals wished to serve as unpaid volunteers, with their appointments to be placed on the following month's agenda. He discussed the scholarship program and recommended that scholarship recipients be advised that their thank-you letters were required before funds could be released. He also praised the recent graduation ceremony, noting that 135 students graduated and that the valedictorian, salutatorian, and class president delivered speeches.

Mayor Kim congratulated the graduates and specifically recognized the daughter of Neris Papoters, who served as class president, praising her speech and the graduation ceremony. He also commended Councilman Donohue for his work with the pool program.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported that she had nothing to report.

Attorney Report

The Borough Attorney reported that matters pertaining to her report were reserved for the executive session to be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

BA Report

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated that the Borough Engineer's project reports had been received earlier that day or the previous day and would be distributed to the governing body. She explained that the reports provided updates on all ongoing projects and covered the matters she would otherwise have addressed in her report.

Stern also reported on computer and communication issues between the Clerk's Office and Finance Office that affected the bills list in the meeting packet. She stated that the current packet contained the June 13 bills list from the Work Session, while an updated bills list was sent to the Clerk's Office on June 22 but was not included in the packet. Stern stated that Sophia Jang had a copy of the updated list and requested that it be distributed to the governing body. If Jang did not have the updated copy, Stern indicated it would be another computer-related issue.

Councilman Shin requested that the governing body receive **the** final versions of resolutions and the agenda after each Regular Meeting, reflecting any changes, amendments, tabling, or withdrawals that occurred during the meeting. He explained that the governing body currently received resolutions electronically before the meeting, but needed an updated record showing what was actually approved.

After discussion, it was clarified that the request was for the final, updated agenda and resolutions, rather than certified copies. The final agenda would reflect items that were passed, pulled, tabled, or stricken, including appropriate notations. Councilman Min supported the request, noting that such documentation would make it easier to track resolutions from month to month without having to search through prior meeting minutes.

Councilman Shin emphasized that this would improve recordkeeping and allow the governing body to easily determine the disposition of prior resolutions, particularly when researching matters such as liquor license transfers and renewals. Sophia Jang stated that she could provide a summary of what occurred during the meeting by marking the final agenda to indicate which items were passed or pulled.

A discussion arose regarding Resolution 2026-140, concerning advertising for a part-time DPW position. Borough Administrator Stern stated that the position had not been advertised even though the resolution had been passed and the Clerk was expected to advertise it. Mayor Kim stated that the matter was separate from the discussion and should be addressed later.

Councilman Shin also raised the use of Time Track versus traditional employee timecards, noting that the Borough had invested in Time Track and questioned the continued use of the older timecard system. Mayor Kim agreed but stated that the matter should be discussed with Stern separately rather than during the public portion of the meeting.

Police Report

Police Director Garner provided the Police Department report and highlighted several recent department activities, including participation in the Special Olympics Torch Run and closing ceremonies, the annual scholarship ceremony honoring the legacies of Officers Barryoli and Ryan, the Department's first "Chief for a Day" event, and a DMV Motor Vehicle Inspection event that processed more than 100 vehicles.

Director Garner reported that the Department had handled 12,311 incidents since the beginning of the year and was on pace to exceed 25,000 incidents, which would be the highest number recorded in the Borough's history. The Department had made 12 arrests since the previous meeting, including two domestic-related arrests and ten resulting from proactive policing. Garner highlighted Detective Michael McTurney's arrests involving drug possession and a vehicle burglary, crediting investigative work and surveillance footage for identifying one of the suspects. Garner commended the Department's officers for their dedication, noting that numerous off-duty officers attended the swearing-in ceremony for Officers Dorilas and Lee on their own time to show their support. He also advised the governing body that an officer was receiving treatment and counseling and was expected to be out for approximately 30 days, without disclosing the officer's identity.

Councilman Shin raised concerns about confusion regarding the parking meter kiosks after 6:00 PM, when parking enforcement was suspended. He recommended posting laminated notices on the kiosks in English, Korean, and Spanish clearly stating that parking is free after 6:00 PM. Director Garner stated that Captain Rotundo was already working on signage and explained that the solar-

powered kiosks remained operational to maintain their systems and software updates. He also stated that informational notices had been distributed to businesses. Mayor Kim and Councilman Kwak supported the proposed kiosk signage. Councilman Kwak additionally suggested exploring whether the ParkMobile application could automatically notify users at 6:00 PM that parking was free.

Engineer Reports

The Borough Engineer was not present. The Borough Administrator distributed the Engineer's written report covering all active projects directly to the governing body in lieu of a verbal presentation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ernst Beerley commended the Borough for the beautiful flowers along Broad Avenue, stating they made him proud to be a Palisades Park resident.

Mr. Beerley then raised concerns regarding his property at 327 East Columbia Avenue, including unresolved snow-shoveling issues, overgrown grass and weeds, and a tree that partially broke during a storm approximately two weeks earlier and remained on the property. He stated that the DPW was aware of the issues but was unsure who was responsible for addressing them.

Mayor Kim stated that the Borough would address the issues during the week.

Ernst Beerley thanked the council members for being there that day. Ernst Beerley stated maybe the mayor wouldn't miss if one person wasn't there, but he did. Ernst Beerley stated they were all educated people who put a lot of input into making this town work. Ernst Beerley stated he was old-school and he wasn't fond of the Zoom calls because he preferred to see the council members in-person.

Neris Papoters thanked Councilman Donohue for the anniversary celebration and recognized the support provided to the high school. She also thanked the Police Department for its work with the police academy and commented positively on seeing children participating in activities at Lindbergh School.

Papoters raised concerns about property maintenance; noting that while Borough streets were being cleaned, some private properties were becoming increasingly neglected. She asked who was responsible for inspecting properties to ensure that grass was cut and garbage was properly maintained and whether warnings or violations were issued when property owners failed to comply. She cited uncollected garbage and overgrown grass on her street as concerns, particularly with summer approaching and the potential for unpleasant odors.

Papoters acknowledged that property maintenance was the responsibility of individual property owners and asked that the Borough ensure those requirements were being enforced. She concluded by thanking the Mayor and Council for attending the high school graduation and stated that the students appreciated their presence.

Mayor Kim asked Police Captain James Rotundo to address the concerns regarding the Code Enforcement Officer, and Rotundo stated that he would handle the matter.

Mayor Kim also reported complaints regarding New Jersey Transit buses parking on local streets when out of service, noting that as many as five or six buses had been observed in residential areas. He asked Rotundo to contact NJ Transit. Rotundo stated that he had repeatedly contacted the agency, but the buses continued to return after temporarily stopping the practice.

Borough Administrator Roberta Stern stated that she would contact NJ Transit again and advise them to stop the practice. Mayor Kim stated that the Borough might need to issue tickets. Rotundo explained that an existing ordinance exempts NJ Transit buses from the Borough's three-ton weight restriction, which contributed to the issue. He suggested that driver changes might be contributing to the repeated violations and stated that the Police Department would continue addressing the matter.

Motion to close public participation and return to regular session made by Councilwoman Lee; seconded by Councilman Shin. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to close the regular session and convene executive session to discuss litigation matters made by Councilman Donohue; seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the Regular Meeting and adjourn.

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

I CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE COPY OF MINUTES APPROVED AT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING ON
AUGUST 25, 2026



Laura Borchers RMC, CMR
Interim Borough Clerk.

