

# **MINUTES**

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 14, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

*Meeting Held via Zoom*

## **CALL TO ORDER-**

Mayor Papaleo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Papaleo called for a moment of silent prayer and reflection and asked everyone to remember the two individuals who died of COVID over the last few weeks and those who are suffering from the virus. The Mayor led the salute to the flag.

## **STATEMENT –**

Mayor Papaleo read the statement of compliance as follows:

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act:

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, notice requirements for this meeting have been set forth in a resolution adopted by the Municipal Council at its meeting of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Pursuant to the State of Emergency and the Public Health Emergency as ordered in Executive Orders Nos. 103 and 104, the Borough will hold its scheduled meetings virtually until further notice. Further, notification of this compliance was published in The Record and the Ridgewood News on April 24, 2020, notifying the public that until further notice, all future meetings will not have members of the public physically present, but the public will have the opportunity to ask questions to the Mayor and Council virtually, and that the public who wish to participate in the meeting may secure access information shown on the Borough's website.

## **ROLL CALL –**

Councilwoman Busted, Councilman Chinigo, Councilman Gautier, Councilwoman Kaufman, Councilwoman Kinsella, Councilwoman Montisano-Koen and Mayor Papaleo were present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -**

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busted the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of November 23, 2020 were unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Special Meeting of December 8, 2020 were approved on the following roll call: Councilwoman Busted, Councilman Chinigo, Councilwoman Kaufman, Councilwoman Kinsella and Councilwoman Montisano-Koen voted yes; Councilman Gautier abstained.

## **PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS –**

Mayor Papaleo read the Proclamation Honoring Police Chief Thomas Cariddi Upon His Retirement as follows:

## **PROCLAMATION**

***WHEREAS**, Thomas D. Cariddi was hired as a Police Officer in the River Edge Police Department on January 1, 1985; and*

***WHEREAS**, from 1987 through 1996 Thomas Cariddi was assigned as a detective on a rotational basis and then during 1996 through 1997 he was assigned as a full-time detective in the Investigation Division where he successfully investigated crimes ranging from harassment to attempted murder; and*

***WHEREAS**, on June 2, 1997, Thomas Cariddi was promoted to the rank of Sergeant where he was assigned to the Patrol Division and supervised patrol officers and dispatchers; and*

***WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2001, Thomas Cariddi was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant where he was assigned as the Patrol Division Commander and was responsible for all Internal Affairs matters for the entire patrol division and the hiring, training and supervision of all crossing guards and new police officers; and*

***WHEREAS**, on February 1, 2008 Thomas Cariddi was unanimously appointed by the Governing Body to the rank of **Police Chief**.*

***WHEREAS**, Chief Cariddi has always represented River Edge with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism; and*

***WHEREAS**, Chief Cariddi has faithfully and diligently served the Borough and its residents by providing steadfast leadership to the men and women of the River Edge Police Department throughout his entire tenure.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge hereby commend and thank **Chief Thomas Cariddi** for his many years of dedicated law enforcement service and especially for his positive contributions to the River Edge Police Department. His efforts, dedication and professional integrity is a direct result of making River Edge a better community for all. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.*

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Mayor Thomas Papaleo

*Dated: December 14, 2020*

Mayor Papaleo-thanked Chief Cariddi for his service and said that he will be sorely missed. Chief Cariddi-thanked the Mayor and Council for the kind words and said that he has enjoyed working with this Council and has had a wonderful working relationship with them. While there are certainly things that he will miss, he looks forward to another chapter in his life and will always look back with fondness and pride.

Mayor Papaleo-stated that he has worked with Chief Cariddi over the past 9 years and has been the liaison to the Police Department. He has always been impressed with his professionalism, his knowledge of the law and procedure. He wished Chief Cariddi and his family all the best in his retirement.

Councilman Chinigo-has been working with Chief Cariddi for four years and he made it easy to be his liaison. He said that it was a pleasure to watch him work and learn from him.

Councilman Chinigo wishes him only the best going forward in the future. He said that they're very appreciative of everything that he's done.

Councilwoman Busteed-said that they've worked together for seven years and he has done terrific things with his community policing efforts. She said that the Chief always took a phone call or answered a text and that the residents of River Edge should be very grateful.

Councilwoman Busteed wished him all the best health and happiness in his retirement.

Councilman Gautier-congratulated the Chief on his retirement and extended his best wishes in the next chapter of his life. He said that he will be sorely missed.

Councilwoman Kaufman- thanked the Chief for everything that he's done for the town and hopes he has a wonderful retirement and enjoys life with his family.

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen – thanked Chief Cariddi for all his hard work and said that she appreciated his support since becoming a member of the Council. She congratulated him on his retirement.

Councilwoman Kinsella – said that she hasn't worked with the Chief too long, but wished him the best in the future for him and his family. She congratulated him on a well-deserved retirement.

Mayor Papaleo-said that they are so grateful to him for his service both as a Police Officer and a professional. The Mayor thanked him for being Chief and wanted to take this opportunity to wish him well.

Chief Cariddi-thanked all of them again and said it means a lot to him.

Mayor Papaleo-asked Tom Behrens, the Borough's Planner, to give a brief summary of resolution #20-285.

Tom Behrens-said that the Mayor and Council should have received a copy of the Borough's amended spending plan. If they recall, the Mayor and Council adopted the last version in June of this year. This is a compliance requirement that the Borough has to adhere to and is a boiler plate item to help the Borough secure its immunity from builders remedy law suits through 2025. Mr. Behrens explained in detail what the amendments are.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –**

On motion Councilwoman Montisano Koen, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella to open public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to close public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously

approved.

## **APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –**

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier, appointments and personnel changes were unanimously approved as follows:

The salary change of Jason Milito, Superintendent of Public Works from a Step I salary of \$124,262.00 to Step II - \$133,085.00 effective March 11, 2020;

The retirement of Mary Anne Guiliano, River Edge Public Library, effective January 26, 2021;

The promotion of Jessica Varon from part-time Library Assistant at an hourly rate of \$15.92 to full-time Supervisor of Circulation at an annual salary of \$40,000.00 with a 4-month probationary period effective December 14, 2020;

The retirement of Pat Cali, River Edge Public Library effective December 31, 2020;

The retirement of Thomas Cariddi, Police Chief effective January 1, 2021;

The salary increase of Edward McDermott, Police Dispatcher from an annual salary of \$60,091.26 to \$62,491.26 due to an increase in longevity from \$1,920.00 to \$2,400.00 effective January 7, 2021;

The retirement of Edward McDermott, Police Dispatcher, effective January 8, 2021;

The salary increase of Michael Varrecchia, Patrol Officer from an annual salary of \$138,097.41 to \$142,930.90 due to a longevity increase from 8% to 10% effective January 7, 2021;

The salary increase of Matthew Piferski, Patrol Officer from an annual salary of \$63,629.21 to Patrol Officer 16<sup>th</sup> Grade - \$75,732.74 effective January 1, 2021;

The salary increase of Jeffrey Staron, Patrol Officer from an annual salary of \$63,629.21 to Patrol Officer 16<sup>th</sup> Grade - \$75,732.74 effective January 1, 2021;

The resignation of Kevin Joyce, Fire Inspector effective January 1, 2021.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS –**

Environmental Protection Commission	-	November 2020
Tax Collector	-	November 2020

## **RESOLUTIONS - By Consent**

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman, resolution #20-275 through #20-282 and #20-284 through #20-286 were unanimously approved.

#20-275 Approval of Renewal of the Interlocal Agreement Between the Borough of River Edge and the Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch for the Provision of 911 Public Safety Answering Point Services and Fire Dispatch Services

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17c-1 et seq., all municipalities of the State of New Jersey are required to provide telephonic access to an appropriate "PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT" serving the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, regionalized provision of such services is a concept specifically endorsed by the aforementioned statutory scheme; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge is a municipality located in Bergen County and a body politic of the State of New Jersey authorized by law to enter into an agreement with another municipality to provide jointly for any lawful service to and for the residents of the respective municipalities pursuant to the provisions of the "INTERLOCAL SERVICE ACT" (N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, each of the parties hereto has independently concluded that implementation of the State Mandated Emergency Enhanced 9-1-1 telephone system program, on a regionalized, cost sharing basis, is in the best interest of the tax payers of the respective entities; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of River Edge has certified that funds are available from Account #0-01-25-250-143 subject to the Governing Body making sufficient funds available in the 2021 budget in a total amount not to exceed \$12,085.27; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch has offered the Borough of River Edge a service entitled "FIRE DISPATCH SERVICES"; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #0-01-25-255-193 in the amount not to exceed \$5,630.40.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Interlocal Services Agreement for 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services and Fire Dispatch Services on file with the Borough Clerk which shall automatically renew for an additional two year term per the contract terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and the Agreement as executed by the Mayor and Borough Clerk, be forwarded to the Northwest Bergen Central Dispatch, 30 Garber Square, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450.

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#20-276 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund a 2021 1<sup>st</sup> and Partial 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Prepayment

WHEREAS, the tax office has received a duplicate tax overpayment for the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 taxes on the following property(s); and

WHEREAS, a duplicate payment was posted into 1<sup>st</sup> and partial 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2021; and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from PrimeTime Title Agency to refund the duplicate amount directly to the homeowner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

BLOCK/LOT	NAME & ADDRESS	REFUND AMOUNT
1205/9	Levon Barghamian 212 Oak Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	\$3,619.62

December 14, 2020

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#20-277 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Tax Overpayment(s)

WHEREAS, the tax office has received duplicate and/or tax overpayments for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 taxes on the following property(s); and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from their mortgage company to refund the overpaid amount directly to the mortgage company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Account Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue a refund check in the following amount and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>HOMEOWNER/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
105/9	DAIBES, RICHARD & JILLIAN 911 MYRTLE AVENUE	DUPLICATE	5,220.74
209/2	LI, DONG & LIN, MENGJING 85 SPRING VALLEY AVENUE	DUPLICATE	3,873.21
305/2	SCHUTTE, CHRISTOPHER RICHARD 241 WALES AVENUE	DUPLICATE	2,656.18
406/14	LEON, JAMES 728 SUMMIT AVE	DUPLICATE	250.00
901/4	WILHELM, GARY 259 DORCHESTER ROAD	DUPLICATE	3,964.84
907/1	NAPOLEON, MARY C 247 WAYNE AVENUE	DUPLICATE	2,978.26
1207/38	KIM, HO BONG & NAM JOO 167 BOGERT ROAD	DUPLICATE	3,039.34
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>21,982.57</b>

Make check payable to: CORE LOGIC TAX SERVICES  
P.O. Box 9202  
Coppell, TX 75019-9978  
Attn: Centralized Refunds

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#20-278 Authorization to Waive all Municipal Fees that Would Normally be Charged for the Issuance of Permits Under the UCC and UFC for the Use of Outdoor Space by Restaurants and Similar Establishments for the Time Period Ending March 31, 2021

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State, Department of Community Affairs (DCA), has issued requirements and guidelines applicable to restaurants and similar establishments regarding the use of outdoor space during the winter months to help these establishments adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Codes and Standards within the DCA has previously provided guidance on the issuance of permits and the use of tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies per the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) and the Uniform Construction Code (UCC); and

**WHEREAS**, due to the approaching winter weather conditions, establishments that want to maintain the use of tents past November 30, 2020, are required to apply for a UCC permit from their local construction office; and

**WHEREAS**, operational items such as portable cooking equipment used around and/or under the tent should be maintained in accordance with the UFC and addressed by the local fire official; and

**WHEREAS**, a permit for any electrical equipment, electrical wiring, or mechanical equipment that would otherwise require a permit must also be filed; and

**WHEREAS**, the DCA encourages municipalities to waive permit fees for tents in use past the November 30, 2020 deadline provided that the tents meet the snow bearing requirements or meet the revised requirements and guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, recognize that restaurants and similar establishments have been financially impacted by the pandemic and desire to support these establishments by waiving all municipal fees associated with the above stated required permitting;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey do hereby waive all municipal fees that would normally be charged for the issuance of permits under the UCC and UFC for the use of outdoor space by restaurants and similar establishments for the time period ending March 31, 2021.

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#20-279 A Resolution Permitting the Extension of Temporary Zoning Permits for Sidewalk Cafes and Outdoor Restaurant Seating During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

**WHEREAS**, restaurants are an integral part of the local economies and social fabrics of municipalities, and

**WHEREAS**, policies regarding restaurants established by the State of New Jersey through law, regulation and executive order rightfully prioritize public health; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order 103 declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak within the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the proper adherence of measures to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus has greatly affected the business model of restaurants; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No.: 20-163 passed by the Borough of River Edge on June 8, 2020 permits Temporary Outdoor Dining Permits for Sidewalk Cafes and Outdoor Restaurant Seating through December 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of River Edge wishes to continue to help its local businesses through this difficult time by allowing additional time for Temporary Outdoor Dining Permits for Sidewalk Cafes and Outdoor Restaurant Seating through June 30, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey hereby agree as follows:

1. All prior regulations under Resolution No. 20-163 remain in effect, unless otherwise revised as part of this extension.
2. All Temporary Outdoor Dining Permits issued in accordance with Resolution No. 20-163 shall continue to be permitted through June 30, 2021 unless this Resolution is otherwise amended or vacated by the Borough Council.
3. The Borough Zoning Officer, Chief of Police, Fire Official, Construction Official, Engineer and Administrator shall have the discretion to create additional standards and/or restrictions for a particular property and to fashion such conditions as may be necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Appeals of such requirements may be filed with the Borough Council.
4. All businesses shall comply with all requirements established by any and all Executive Orders issued by the Governor as well as any other applicable State, County and Borough orders and regulations that specify social distancing requirements, cleaning standards, and other rules and regulations for temporary outdoor seating areas.
5. This Resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2021 and remain in effect until June 30, 2021 unless revoked or modified beforehand by the Borough Council.

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#20-280 Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year 2020

**WHEREAS**, certain appropriations were required and provided for during the calendar year 2020 and will require additional sums for expenditures to the end of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, other appropriations reflect that balances do exist as of the end of the year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, it is provided per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 that municipalities may make transfers from appropriations having excesses to those requiring additional sums.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the list of transfers herein and below be and they are authorized to be made upon records of appropriations in the keeping of the CFO as per the amounts listed herein, provided this resolution is adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership of the Governing Body as required by Statute.

FROM: Public Works Repair & Maintenance #0-01-26-290-011 \$110,000.00

Sewer System S&W	#0-01-31-455-011	\$ 45,000.00
Municipal Court S&W	#0-01-43-490-011	\$ 20,000.00
Social Security	#0-01-36-472-100	\$ 60,000.00
Bus S&W	#0-01-27-331-011	\$ 25,000.00
Employee Group Health	#0-01-23-220-090	\$ 20,000.00

TO: Administration S&W	#0-01-20-100-011	\$ 8,500.00
TO: Land Use Board S&W	#0-01-21-180-021	\$ 4,000.00
TO: Construction Official S&W	#0-01-22-195-011	\$ 15,500.00
TO: Police S&W	#0-01-25-240-011	\$130,000.00
TO: OEM S&W	#0-01-25-252-011	\$ 2,000.00
TO: Building & Grounds S&W	#0-01-26-310-011	\$ 50,000.00
TO: Vehicle Maintenance S&W	#0-01-26-315-011	\$ 13,000.00
TO: Public Health Services S&W	#0-01-27-330-011	\$ 16,000.00
TO: Recreation Commission S&W	#0-01-28-370-011	\$ 10,000.00
TO: Maintenance of Parks S&W	#0-01-28-375-011	\$ 15,000.00
TO: Accumulated Absences	#0-01-27-332-100	\$ 16,000.00

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#20-281 Approve the Appointment of a Volunteer Firefighter

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that Seth Hanauer be and he is hereby appointed as a volunteer firefighter in the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department effective December 14, 2020.

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#20-282 Authorize Tax Collector to Adjust 2020 Final Tax Bills Due to County Board Judgements

WHEREAS, County Board Judgements were entered on 11/04/20 and received by the tax office on 12/04/20 for the year 2020 reducing the Assessed Value on the following properties; and

WHEREAS, the reductions were not reflected in the 2020 Extended Tax duplicate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Tax Collector apply the tax credits to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 taxes and adjust the 2021 Preliminary taxes and her records accordingly.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Old Value</u>	<u>New Value</u>	<u>2020 Tax Adjustment</u>	<u>2021 Tax Preliminary</u>
103/1.02	<b>GARRITY</b> 935 Fifth Ave	597,600	493,200	3,727.08	1,863.54
117/10	<b>SEYEDESHAGHI</b> 201 Woodland Avenue	455,000	410,000	1,606.50	803.25
206/22	<b>MACKESY</b> 870 SUMMIT	465,000	425,000	1,428.00	714.00
207/22	<b>PALMER BROS.</b>	931,700	881,700	1,785.00	892.50

210/2	940 Kinderkamack Road <b>DA888 LLC</b>	570,500	530,000	1,445.85	722.93
304/1.01	888 Kinderkamack Road <b>MORAN</b>	455,000	410,000	1,606.50	803.25
307/5	808 Fifth Avenue <b>SCHAEFFER</b>	539,800	485,000	1,956.36	978.18
308/6	713 Eighth Avenue <b>HASAN</b>	777,500	750,000	981.75	490.88
404/9	727 Seventh Avenue <b>38 RIVER EDGE ROAD LLC</b>	610,000	570,000	1,428.00	714.00
404/10/C0004	38 River Edge Road <b>LAMURAGLIA Jr.</b>	461,000	425,000	1,288.77	644.39
405/1.02	44D River Edge Road <b>ULISSE</b>	614,700	530,000	3,023.79	1,511.90
411/7.01	750 Oak Avenue <b>RAFIQ</b>	526,000	475,000	1,820.70	910.35
501/8	719 Williams Avenue <b>NYMAN</b>	524,700	475,000	1,774.29	887.15
501/35	15 Kimberly Way <b>RICE</b>	592,200	530,000	2,220.54	1,110.27
506/2	682 Westview Court <b>CHA</b>	636,000	590,000	1,642.20	821.10
602/1	269 Adams Avenue <b>GOLDFARB</b>	386,900	350,000	1,317.33	658.67
608/8	193 Adams Ave <b>CHERYL</b>	491,700	450,000	1,488.69	744.35
615/39	643 Bogert Road <b>BOKKA</b>	371,100	355,200	567.63	283.82
701/19.06	582 Clarendon Court <b>MARTIN</b>	712,500	650,000	2,231.25	1,115.63
701.01/19.14	506 Manning Court <b>ZHU</b>	669,400	602,000	2,406.18	1,203.09
708/6	503 Manning Court <b>PEREZ</b>	377,700	357,200	731.85	365.93
813/14	249 Kensington Road <b>LANGLEY</b>	890,000	840,000	1,785.00	892.50
906/27	418 Oak Avenue <b>LAU</b>	769,000	725,000	1,602.93	801.47
909/21	250 Wayne Avenue <b>MARTINEZ</b>	519,600	423,000	3,448.62	1,724.31
911/15	6 Fenway Court <b>BHANDARI</b>	630,000	525,000	3,748.50	1,874.25
1002/15	278 Howland Avenue <b>RAVID</b>	520,000	484,900	1,253.07	626.54
1103/15	395 Mercer Avenue <b>KATSNELSON</b>	682,200	625,000	2,042.04	1,021.02
1103/34	283 Valley Road <b>CHHIPA</b>	603,300	550,000	1,902.81	951.41
1108/21	203 Valley Road <b>HWANG</b>	366,200	351,000	542.64	271.32

1108/23	264 Taft Road <b>GATHERS</b> 278 Taft Court	830,000	780,000	1,785.00	892.50
1205/8	<b>CHEEMA</b> 206 Oak Avenue	809,700	750,000	2,131.29	1,065.65
1207/27	<b>XIE</b> 106 Lakeview Street	550,000	425,000	4,462.50	2,231.25
1410/3	<b>ALLEN&amp;BENKEL REALTY, LLC</b> 80 Grand Avenue	957,500	775,000	6,515.25	3,257.63
1418/1	<b>ENTERPRISE 5, LLC</b> 270 Johnson Avenue	753,100	700,000	1,895.67	947.84
1418/3.01	<b>ENDER</b> 62 Madison Street	500,300	450,000	1,795.71	897.86
			Total Tax Credits:	71,389.29	35,694.73

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On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilwoman Busteded, resolution #20-283 was unanimously approved.

Mayor Papaleo-said that he is very excited to have Lissette come to the Borough and is grateful that she chose River Edge.

Lissette Aportela-thanked the Mayor and Council for giving her this opportunity and is very excited to join the Borough of River Edge. She brings with her over two decades of public service experience, a strong work ethic and lots of gratitude. She thanked them all again.

#20-283 Authorization Execution of Employment Agreement with Lissette Aportela, Borough Administrator

WHEREAS, Lissette Aportela is hereby appointed as the River Edge “Borough Administrator” effective January 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the Borough Administrator’s employment are set forth in an Agreement between the Borough and the Borough Administrator through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes it will serve the public interest, promote mutual understanding and foster a harmonious relationship to establish the Borough Administrator’s duties, terms and conditions of employment in a written and executed agreement for the term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Lissette Aportela shall be entitled to the standard benefits and provisions as set forth in the Borough’s Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that they hereby appoint Lissette Aportela to the position of Borough Administrator for Borough of River Edge with an effective date of January 1, 2021, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the written and executed Employment Agreement for the term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the Employment Agreement regarding salary,

benefits, vacation and termination set forth in the Employment Agreement are incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Employment Agreement with Lissette Aportela consistent with the terms of this Resolution.

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#20-284 Resolution of the Council of the Borough of River Edge Approving Amendments to the Borough's Spending Plan for It's Affordable Housing Trust Fund In Accordance with the Borough's Third Round Affordable Housing Obligations

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of River Edge established an affordable housing trust fund in 2009 and has adopted an affordable housing ordinance which includes provisions for the collection of development fees to generate revenues for this fund as required by the Council on Affordable Housing's ("COAH") Second Round Rules N.J.C. 5:93 and in accordance with the Borough's June 24, 2019 Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's affordable

Housing trust fund is required to support the Borough's various affordable housing programs, including its Third Round rehabilitation obligation, as set forth in the Borough's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a municipality with an affordable housing trust fund should receive approval of a Spending Plan by COAH or the Court prior to making any expenditures from its affordable housing trust fund;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of River Edge adopted a Spending Plan on June 8, 2020 via Resolution No. 20-160 consistent with P.L. 2008, c. 46, COAH regulations and the Settlement Agreement entered into between the Borough and Fair Share Housing on June 24, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of River Edge is amending its June 2020 Spending Plan for settlement purposes by including provisions for affordability assistance and an affordability program manual as required by the Court in satisfying the Borough's compliance requirements.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. It approves the Spending Plan as amended that is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and requests that the Court review and approve the Borough's Spending Plan so that it can expend funds in its affordable housing trust fund.
2. The Mayor and all other officials of the Borough of River Edge are hereby directed and authorized to take any and all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with law, if required.

December 14, 2020

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## #20-285 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Spending Plan

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Borough of River Edge (hereinafter the “Borough”), Bergen County, has prepared a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan that addresses its regional fair share of the affordable housing need in accordance with the Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.), the Fair Housing Act (FHA) (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301) the regulations of the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) (N.J.A.C. 5:91-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:93-1 et seq.) and the Settlement Agreement entered into between Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”) and the Borough on June 24, 2019. The Borough established an affordable housing trust fund in 2009 and adopted an affordable housing ordinance containing development fee requirements in 2020 creating a revenue source for the trust fund. All development fees, payments in lieu of constructing affordable units on site, funds from the sale of units with extinguished controls, and interest generated by the fees will be deposited in this separate interest-bearing affordable housing trust fund for the purposes of affordable housing. These funds shall be spent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:93-8.16 as described in the sections that follow.

### **1. REVENUES FOR CERTIFICATION PERIOD**

It is anticipated that during the period of 2021 to 2025, which is the period that the Borough will have a Third Round Judgment of Compliance and Repose (hereinafter “Third Round JOR”), the Borough will add an additional \$69,781.25 to its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This is detailed below.

- (a) Development fees: The Borough anticipates it will collect \$68,750 in development fees between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2025 based on the following assumptions:
  1. *Residential Development Fees*: Beginning in 2021, the Borough anticipates it will collect \$5,000 per year in residential fees based on residential certificates of occupancy issued and building department data since 2010.
  2. *Non-Residential Development Fees*: Beginning in 2021, the Borough anticipates it will collect \$8,750 per year in non-residential development fees based on non-residential development since 2010.
- (b) Payment in lieu (PIL): The Borough of River Edge does not currently anticipate the contribution of any payments in lieu toward the municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund during the period of its Third Round JOR.
- (c) Other Funds: The Borough of River Edge does not currently anticipate the contribution of any other funds toward the municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund during the period of its Third Round JOR.
- (d) Projected interest: It is estimated that the Borough will collect approximately \$1,031.25 in interest from 2021 to 2025.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	PROJECTED REVENUES – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND 2020 THROUGH 2025						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
(a) Development fees:	\$0.00	\$13,750.00	\$13,750.00	\$13,750.00	\$13,750.00	\$13,750.00	\$68,750.00
(b) Payments in Lieu of Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
(c) Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
(d) Interest	\$0.00	\$206.25	\$206.25	\$206.25	\$206.25	\$206.25	\$1,031.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,956.25</b>	<b>\$13,956.25</b>	<b>\$13,956.25</b>	<b>\$13,956.25</b>	<b>\$13,956.25</b>	<b>\$69,781.25</b>

In sum, the Borough of River Edge projects a total of \$69,781.25 in revenue to be collected between June 1, 2020 and December 31, 2025 available to fund and administer the Borough's affordable housing plan. All interest earned on the account shall be used only for the purposes of affordable housing.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM TO COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

The following procedural sequence for the collection and distribution of development fee revenues shall be followed by the Borough:

- (a) Collection of development fee revenues: Collection of development fee revenues shall be consistent with River Edge's Affordable Housing Ordinance for both residential and non-residential developments in accordance with applicable COAH's rules and P.L.2008, c.46, sections 8 (C. 52:27D-329.2) and 32-38 (C. 40:55D-8.1 through 8.8), and as may be amended.
- (b) Distribution of development fee revenues: A request for the expenditure of development fee revenues will be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of River Edge. Requests for expenditure of funds may come from administrative agencies, developers, contractors, or other entities engaged in the development or rehabilitation of affordable housing in River Edge. The CFO will review the request in the context of the Borough's Spending Plan, and, if deemed a valid utilization of development fee funds, will submit a report and request for approval to River Edge's governing body. If approved by the Governing Body, the funds will be distributed by the CFO.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED USE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS

- (a) Rehabilitation. The Borough has a rehabilitation obligation of 6 units, one of which has already been satisfied through Bergen County's Home Improvement program yielding 5 rehabilitation credits to be met. In order to address its rehabilitation obligation, the Borough will participate in the Bergen County Home Improvement Program (BCHIP) – or hire a separate entity to administer its rehabilitation program– and will utilize funds from the Borough's affordable housing trust fund to help fund these programs. The Borough will commit an average of \$10,000 per unit, consistent with COAH's Round 2 rules. This will require a total affordable housing trust fund contribution of approximately \$50,000.

COAH's rules require municipalities to set aside sufficient funds to address one-third of their rehabilitation obligation within one year of approval of their plan. In addition, municipalities are required to set aside sufficient funds to address one-sixth of their rehabilitation obligation each subsequent year of the substantive certification period. As such, the Borough will set aside at least \$16,666 for the first year following the granting of a JOR, and in accordance with the expenditure table below for each subsequent year following the granting of a JOR until the rehabilitation obligation is addressed.

- (b) Affordability Assistance. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93-8.16(c), the Borough will commit to spend at least 30% of the revenues collected from development fees less its rehabilitation program costs towards affordability assistance to very-low, low- and moderate-income households. As shown in the table below, the Borough projects that approximately \$5,935 will be available from the affordable housing trust fund for this purpose through 2025, one-third of which will need to be dedicated toward affordability assistance for very-low income households. The Borough's affordability assistance program is detailed in the Appendix to this Plan.

Actual development fees + interest through 12/31/20		\$0.00
Development fees projected 1/1/21-12/31/25	+	\$68,750.00
Interest projected 1/1/21-12/31/25	+	\$1,031.25
Less rehab & housing activity expenditures through 12/31/20	-	\$0.00
Less rehab & housing activity expenditures 2021-2025	-	\$50,000.00
<b>Total</b>	=	\$19,781.75
30 percent requirement	x 0.30 =	\$5,935 <sup>(1)</sup>
Less affordability assistance expenditures through 12/31/20	-	\$0.00
<b>PROJECTED MINIMUM Affordability Assistance Requirement 1/1/2020-12/31/2025</b>	=	\$5,935
<b>PROJECTED MINIMUM Very Low-Income Affordability Assistance Requirement 1/1/2020-12/31/2025</b>	÷ 3 =	\$1,978

(1) Calculated as 30% of the total development fees and interest projected for the period 2021-2025 minus rehabilitation costs.

(c) Administrative Expenses. Per N.J.A.C. 5:93-8.16(e), no more than 20% of surplus revenues collected from development fees not allocated to the Borough's rehabilitation program shall be expended on administration. Administrative expenditures, subject to the 20% cap, include the salaries and benefits for municipal employees and consultant fees necessary to develop or implement the following:

1. An updated Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
2. A rehabilitation program.
3. An affirmative marketing program.
4. An affordability assistance program.
5. Other affordable housing activities that do not involve litigation.

Actual development fees + interest through 12/31/20		\$0.00
Development fees projected 1/1/21-12/31/25	+	\$68,750.00
Interest projected 1/1/21-12/31/25	+	\$1,031.25
<b>Total</b>	=	\$69,781.25
20 percent requirement	x 0.20 =	\$13,956
Less administrative expenditures through 12/31/20	-	\$0.00
<b>PROJECTED MAXIMUM Administrative Expenses Requirement 1/1/2021-12/31/2025</b>	=	\$13,956
<b>ACTUAL Anticipated Administrative Expenses 1/1/2021-12/31/2025</b>	=	\$13,846 <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) This figure represents the deficit (±\$110) resulting from the Borough's affordable housing expenditures when applied to its projected revenues.

#### 4. EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE

The Borough intends to use affordable housing trust fund revenues for the creation and/or rehabilitation of housing units. Where applicable, the creation/rehabilitation funding schedule below parallels the implementation schedule set forth in the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and is summarized as follows.

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS	Number of Units Projected	PROJECTED EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE 2021 -2025						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Rehabilitation	5	\$0	\$16,668	\$8,333	\$8,333	\$8,333	\$8,333	\$50,000
Affordability Assistance		\$0	\$1,187	\$1,187	\$1,187	\$1,187	\$1,187	\$5,935
Administration		\$0	\$2,770	\$2,769	\$2,769	\$2,769	\$2,769	\$13,846
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,625</b>	<b>\$12,289</b>	<b>\$12,289</b>	<b>\$12,289</b>	<b>\$12,289</b>	<b>\$69,781</b>

## 5. EXCESS OR SHORTFALL OF FUNDS

In the event of excess funds, any remaining funds above the amount necessary to satisfy the municipal affordable housing obligation will be dedicated toward its rehabilitation program and/or its affordability assistance program and/or additional affordable housing activity necessary to address any remaining “unmet need.”

In the event of any expected or unexpected shortfall of funds necessary to implement the Fair Share Plan, the Borough of River Edge will handle the shortfall of funds through an alternative funding source to be identified by the Borough or by adopting a resolution with an intent to bond, or the Borough will amend its spending plan to reduce the amount of funds available for its administrative expenses.

### SUMMARY

The Borough of River Edge intends to spend affordable housing trust fund revenues pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93-8.16 and consistent with the housing programs outlined in the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.

The Borough of River Edge anticipates collecting a total of \$69,781.25 in development fees and interest to support its affordable housing trust fund. During the period of the Borough’s Third Round JOR through 2025, the Borough will agree to dedicate its trust fund to support its rehabilitation program, affordability assistance and administrative expenses and will fund the difference between any revenue shortfall. Should any surplus funds become available, such funds will be allocated to the Borough’s rehabilitation program, administrative costs and/or to address affordable housing activity to address a portion of the Borough’s Third Round Unmet Need.

<b>SPENDING PLAN SUMMARY</b>		
Balance as of December 10, 2020		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>PROJECTED REVENUE 1/1/2021-12/31/2025</b>		
Development fees	+	\$68,750.00
Payments in lieu of construction	+	\$0.00
Other funds	+	\$0.00
Interest	+	\$1,031.25
SUBTOTAL REVENUE	=	\$69,781.25
<b>TOTAL REVENUE = \$69,781.25</b>		
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Funds used for Rehabilitation	-	\$50,000.00
Affordability Assistance	-	\$5,935
Administration	-	\$13,846
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	=	\$69,781
REMAINING BALANCE	=	\$0.00

## APPENDIX:

### **FOR-SALE UNIT AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RENTAL UNIT AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### FOR-SALE UNIT AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Down Payment Loan Program.

The Borough may offer a Down Payment Assistance Loan program to qualified purchasers of households earning 80% or less of median income of the housing region. To be eligible for the loan, the qualified Buyer must be able to supply 3% of the down payment with the Buyer's own funds, plus additional closing costs that exceed the amount of the loan. No gifts or other loans may be used to fund the 3% down payment amount but may be used to fund additional closing costs. The loan amount may be made up to 10% of the purchase price.

The Borough must approve the Buyer's qualifications and need for the loan. The loan has no prepayment penalty. It is due and payable when the Buyer resells, borrows against the property or refinances the First Purchase Money Mortgage. The loan may be subordinated only to the First Purchase Money Mortgage. When calculating the borrowing capacity of the homeowner and the equity in the property, this loan must be included. The Buyer must sign a mortgage and mortgage note to the Borough.

2. Payment of Closing Costs.

Eligible Buyers may receive payment of closing costs, i.e., title work and policy, reasonable attorney's fees for closing of title, preparation of survey, homeowners insurance, recording fees and other necessary closing expenses to third parties, not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per unit. This assistance shall be in the form of a grant. Total buyer assistance grants, which include Payment of Closing Costs and Payment of Lender Fees, shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per unit. Utility deposits, i.e., gas and electric, paid to utility companies are to be returned to the Borough Affordable Housing Trust Fund upon resale of the unit. The buyer will execute documents required to secure payment to the Borough of River Edge.

3. Payment of Lender Fees.

Eligible Buyers may receive payment of lender fees, i.e., mortgage points, application fees, appraisal fees, bank attorney review fees, and necessary mortgage closing expenses, not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per unit. This assistance shall be in the form of a grant. Total buyer assistance grants, which include Payment of Closing Costs and Payment of Lender Fees, shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per unit.

4. Administration.

River Edge's Affordability Assistance Programs are managed by the River Edge Borough Affordable Housing Administrative Agent. The availability of the program shall be advertised continually on the Borough's website. The following administrative process is applied to the For-Sale Unit Affordability Assistance Program:

- a. The Buyer contacts the Administrative Agent to confirm that he/she wants to receive Down

Payment Assistance.

- b. The Buyer must present proof to the Administrative Agent that he/she is qualified for Affordable Housing in the River Edge Borough.
- c. Buyer must produce an exact copy of a signed Real Estate Contract for an affordable housing unit in River Edge Borough, which indicates clearly the full amount of the purchase price. Buyer must provide the Administrative Agent with the full name, address, phone number, and fax number of the Buyer's Attorney or Settlement Agent so that the Attorney or Settlement Agent can review and approve any and all documents required for the loan.
- d. The Administrative Agent contacts the Realtor or Developer for confirmation of the sale of the unit, and the name of the Attorney handling the sale for the Developer at closing.
- e. The amount of the Down Payment Assistance loan is verified (not to exceed ten percent of the Purchase Price) so that a Mortgage Note, Mortgage, and Repayment Agreement can be prepared by the Administrative Agent.
- f. The amount of the Down Payment Assistance must be disclosed to the Lender, so that the Lender can accurately prepare the First Mortgage documents. The Buyer must give a copy of the First Mortgage Commitment to the Administrative Agent upon receipt of same, so that the Lender can receive full information about the Down Payment Assistance Loan, which shall constitute a Second Mortgage on the premises. The Lender must approve the secondary financing. The River Edge Borough Affordable Housing Attorney will contact the Lender once the Affordable Housing Attorney has a copy of the First Mortgage Commitment.
- g. The River Edge Borough Finance Department will generate the necessary forms and obtain River Edge Borough Council approval for it to issue an Affordable Housing Trust Fund check payable to the Seller's Attorney or Settlement Agent, so that the Down Payment Assistance check can be deposited into the Seller's Attorney Trust Account or Settlement Agent Trust Account pending Closing of Title. The letter and check to the Seller's Attorney or Settlement Agent shall state that the deposit money must be returned to the River Edge Borough if the closing is canceled, or if the sale is declared null and void. If there is a Closing of Title, the Down Payment Assistance money shall be released to the Seller. This money shall be shown on the Closing Statement as a deposit, with credit given at closing to the Buyer. The Buyer must fully execute the Mortgage Note, Mortgage, and Repayment Agreement at the Closing of Title before any money is released.
- h. The Seller's Attorney or Settlement Agent shall verify that the Mortgage Note, Mortgage, and Repayment Agreement have been properly executed, and shall file the original Mortgage with the County Clerk to protect the Borough of River Edge Second Mortgage on the property and return the Filed Mortgage to Affordable Housing Attorney along with the original Mortgage Note and Repayment Agreement.

**RENTAL UNIT AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

1. Rental Assistance

River Edge Borough may offer a Rental Assistance Program that is managed by the Administrative Agent. Eligible recipients of the program are renters who qualify for a very-low, low- or moderate-income rental unit. The following assistance is available to very-low, low- and moderate-income households:

- a. Payment of "moving expenses" based upon verified receipts, in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per family.
- b. Rent subsidies based upon size of household and number of bedrooms in apartment, which subsidies shall be limited to a time period of one (1) year per household:

- 1) One-bedroom, low-income unit -\$55 per month subsidy.
- 2) One-bedroom, moderate-income unit -\$100 per month subsidy.
- 3) Two-bedroom, low-income unit -\$100 per month subsidy.
- 4) Two-bedroom, moderate-income unit -\$200 per month subsidy.
- 5) Three-bedroom, low-income unit -\$150 per month subsidy.
- 6) Three-bedroom, moderate-income units -\$250 per month subsidy

The following assistance is available to very low-income households:

- a. Payment of "moving expenses" based upon verified receipts, in an amount not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per household.
- b. Rental security deposit -Deposits paid to landlord to be returned to the Borough's Affordable Housing Trust Fund upon termination of tenancy.
- c. Rent subsidies based upon size of household and number of bedrooms in apartment which subsidies shall be limited to a time period of one (1) year per household, but may be extended beyond one (1) year if affordable housing trust funds are available:
  - 1) One-bedroom - \$75 per month subsidy.
  - 2) Two-bedroom - \$125 per month subsidy.
  - 3) Three-bedroom - \$175 per month subsidy.

Rental assistance does not need to be repaid by the tenant. The amount of the rental supplement will be calculated initially based on the tenant's actual income and the rent level of the affordable units to help bring the total shelter costs down to 30% of the total household income or lower, if warranted by the particular household circumstances. If the tenant wishes to renew the lease, he/she must be re-income qualified and the rental supplement will be recalculated. If the tenant no longer qualifies for the rental assistance, he/she may renew the lease and stay in the unit but will no longer receive rental assistance.

## 2. Administration.

River Edge Borough's Rental Unit Affordability Assistance Program will be administered by the Administrative Agent. The availability of the program shall be advertised continually on the Borough's website. After an applicant is income qualified by the Administrative Agent pursuant to the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, the applicant will complete and provide an affordability assistance application to the Administrative Agent.

For qualified and approved payment of moving expense, the Administrative Agent will follow the Borough purchasing and requisition process for generating a check that is made out to the applicant. Once the check is produced, the Administrative Agent provides it to the applicant.

For qualified and approved payment of utility deposit, the Administrative Agent follows the Borough purchasing and requisition process for generating a check that is made out to the utility company. Once the check is produced, the Administrative Agent provides it to the applicant for payment to the utility company.

The affordability assistance recipient will sign a contract with River Edge Borough which states, at a minimum: the amount of funds granted, interest information, procedures, duration and conditions of affordability assistance, and repayment information if required.

The availability of any Affordability Assistance Programs must be noticed to all tenants of affordable units within River Edge Borough and provided to all administrative agents of affordable units within River Edge Borough and advertised on the Borough's website.

An income eligible occupant or applicant for an affordable unit within Borough may not be

denied participation in the Affordability Assistance Program(s) unless funding is no longer available.

December 14, 2020

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#20-286 Resolution Authorizing Designation of Acting Chief of Police

WHEREAS, Borough of River Edge Chief of Police Thomas Cariddi is retiring effective December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Borough Ordinance 20-12, amended Chapter 71 of the Code of the Borough of River Edge, authorizing the Mayor and Council to assign any Superior Officer to the Acting Capacity of Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, it is expressly understood that no office or position of any kind is created by the assignment of functions and duties of a higher rank to an Officer of a lower rank on an acting basis; and

WHEREAS, such designation shall not be considered an appointment to a position nor constitute a promotion; and

WHEREAS, such designation shall not entitled the Officer to any additional compensation or other remuneration of office unless specifically provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or the Borough of River Edge Personnel Policies Procedures Handbook.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby designate Lieutenant Michael Walker and Lieutenant Craig Casey to serve as the Acting Chief of Police on alternating months commencing at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2021 and alternating each month thereafter until a Chief of Police is appointed or until the Mayor and Council amend this Resolution, whichever occurs first; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lieutenant Michael Walker will commence the rotation of Acting Chief of Police for the month of January, 2021, followed by Lieutenant Craig Casey to serve as the Acting Chief of Police for the month of February, 2021 and alternating thereafter on a monthly basis in accordance with this Resolution.

December 14, 2020

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Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #20-287 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Chinigo, resolution #20-287 was unanimously approved.

#20-287 Payment of Bills

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on December 14, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge approve the following expenditures.

CURRENT ACCOUNT	\$561,786.32
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 57,306.77

GRANT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 2,539.20
ANIMAL CONTROL ACCOUNT	\$ 1,335.20
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 47,392.90
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	\$ 18,118.66
DEVELOPER'S ACCOUNT	\$ 2,982.50
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 600.00

December 14, 2020

**OLD BUSINESS –**

Councilwoman Kaufman-reported that the new website is up and running. She gave an overview of information that is offered.

Mayor Papaleo-said that Michelle spearheaded this monumental task and thanked her for all of her hard work.

Councilman Chinigo-felt it was an incredible job done single handedly. He said that the site is amazing and will be a boom to this community. He thanked her for doing a great job.

Councilman Gautier-also thanked Councilwoman Kaufman for the hard work she put into the website. He said that she did a terrific job and can see that a lot of time went into it and wanted her to know that they all appreciate it.

Councilwoman Busted-said that this will make a huge difference for the residents of the Borough and thanked her for her efforts.

Councilwoman Kinsella – also thanked Councilwoman Kaufman and said that the new website is very user friendly.

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen – thanked Councilwoman Kaufman for doing a great job.

Councilwoman Kinsella – asked if a resident wanted to post something that would involve the community would they be able to do that and if so, who would they contract.

Councilwoman Kaufman – doesn't 'see why not and suggested that they reach out to Stephanie and we could do a news post.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella to open public comments was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman was unanimously approved.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS –**

Councilwoman Kinsella – again congratulated Chief Cariddi on his retirement and years of service to River Edge. She thanked Arlene for organizing the COVID testing. She wished everyone an early Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and encouraged everyone to continue to be safe and wear masks.

Councilwoman Montisano-Koen-also congratulated Chief Cariddi on his retirement. She commended Michelle for doing a great job with the website and said that she appreciates her hard work. She said great job to those who put together the testing where she participated with her family and felt that it went extremely well and was very organized. She wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season to all.

Councilwoman Kaufman-also congratulated Chief Cariddi on his retirement as well as congratulations and welcome to Lissette and looks forward to working with her. She thanked all those involved in setting up the COVID testing, and the DPW and Rec Commission for putting together a fantastic tree lighting ceremony last week. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Gautier-he again congratulated Chief Cariddi on his retirement as well as Mr. McDermott. He congratulated Ms. Aportela and said that he looks forward to working with her. He also thanked the

DPW and the Rec Commission for the wonderful light ceremony the other night. He said Happy Holidays to everyone.

Councilwoman Busteded-welcomed Lissette to the Borough and is glad she is here and looks forward to working with her in the coming year. She extended her congratulations to all the employees who are retiring and wished them the best and thanked them for their service. With the forecast of terrible weather on the way, she knows that the DPW is preparing as we speak and will do a great job as always. She wished everyone Happy Holidays and looks forward to working with them in the New Year.

Councilman Chinigo-echoed everyone's comments. He thanked Chief Cariddi and the other employees who are retiring and wished them the best. He thanked Michelle for all of her hard work on the new website. He thanked the DPW, Rec Commission and Carolyn, our Rec Director for putting together the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. He looks forward to working with Lissette in the coming years. He thanked the Fire Department for escorting Santa around the town which is a resident favorite and a great service that they give to our community.

Mayor Papaleo-said that he echoes everyone's comments. He commended the DPW for doing an outstanding job with leaf pick-up around town. He congratulated the Borough Engineer and his staff for an outstanding job with sidewalk replacement and curbs on Bogert Road. He feels that we're very lucky to have our professionals. He said that this is the last regular meeting before Sine Die and thanked the Council and Tom Sarlo for doing a great job this year. He thanked Kevin for stepping in, The Borough Clerk, Deputy Clerk, all of our employees, Rec Commission, our Volunteer Fire Department, Ambulance Service, Police Department, Police Reserves, DPW, Commissions and Committees, Public Library for doing an outstanding job. The Mayor said that we are very grateful because River Edge lives on the professionalism of our employees and volunteers who work to make this a great town.

On motion by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella, resolution #20-288 was approved unanimously.

#20-288 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances will or presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from the December 14, 2020 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u>		<u>Statutory</u>
<u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
20-12/14-1	Personnel Matter- DPW Promotional Interviews	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

2. Formal action may/may not be taken by the Borough of River Edge's Mayor and Council at this meeting.

December 14, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT – 6:48 P.M.**

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:48 p.m. was unanimously approved.

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Mayor Thomas Papaleo