

## **MINUTES**

Sine Die Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Monday, January 4, 2021

6:30 P.M.

*Meeting Held via Zoom*

### **CALL TO ORDER –**

Mayor Papaleo called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall at 6:30 p.m.

### **SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Papaleo asked for everyone to stand for a moment of silence to remember Joe Maugeri who has done so much for the town as well as those who have passed from COVID and others who we keep in our hearts at this time. The Mayor led the salute to the flag.

### **STATEMENT –**

Mayor Papaleo read the Statement of Compliance into the record:

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on December 18th of this location, date and time to the Ridgewood News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

The Mayor welcomed our Interim Borough Administrator, Kevin Galland as this is his last meeting and also welcomed our new Borough Administrator, Lissette Aportela. He also welcomed our Risk Consultant Ezio Altamura.

### **ROLL CALL –**

Councilwoman Busteed, 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 Busteed, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020 were approved unanimously.

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

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to open public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

Judy & Andy Jaffe -297 Concord Drive-thanked the Police and Fire Department for responding when a tree fell onto their house at 3:00 a.m. on December 25<sup>th</sup>. She said that they cannot express enough the support and empathy that was shown to them by getting them out of their home safely. Mr. Jaffe is thankful to live in a community like River Edge and told the Mayor and Council that they're doing a great job.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Kinsella to close public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

#### **APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –**

On motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilwoman Montisano-Koen appointments and personnel changes were unanimously approved as follows:

The resignation of Alphonse Bartelloni from the Land Use Board effective December 31, 2020;

The promotion of Scott Ader, Department of Public Works from Equipment Operator 1- Step 5 at an annual salary of \$79,220.00 to Road Foreman – Step 1 - \$83,532.68 retroactive to December 14, 2020;

The promotion of Rosemarie Garcia from part-time Circulation Assistant to full-time Youth Services Library Associate at an annual salary of \$40,000.00 effective January 4, 2021.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS –**

Historic Commission	-	October & November 2020
Land Use Board	-	November & December 2020

#### **RESOLUTIONS - By Consent**

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier, resolution #20-289 through #20-299 were approved unanimously.

#20-289 Amend Agreement with Joseph Burgis, Burgis Associates, Inc., 25 Westwood Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey 07675 for Professional Planning Services Related to the Master Plan Re-examination Report

WHEREAS, there exists a need for professional planning services related to the Master Plan Re-examination Report; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to Joseph Burgis,

Burgis Associates, Inc. via resolution #17-367 dated November 6, 2017 in the amount of \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for planning services related to the Master Plan Re-examination Report; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Burgis, Burgis Associates, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Joseph Burgis, Burgis Associates, Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Joseph Burgis, Burgis Associates, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that funds are available from Account #0-01-21-180-028 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed an additional \$400.00 for a total contract amount of \$15,400.00; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, that rate of pay shall not exceed \$130.00 per hour:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Joseph Burgis, Burgis Associates, Inc., 25 Westwood Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey 07675 in the amount not to exceed \$400.00; and
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(l)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

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#20-290 Refund of Construction Bond for Shade Trees to Charles & Senna Heydt for the Property Located at 282 Taft Court, River Edge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, Charles & Senna Heydt deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 282 Taft Court in the amount of \$3,178.67 on

August 15, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the trees at this location were not affected by construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$3,178.67 be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is authorized to make the following refund of \$3,178.67 from the Trust Other Account to:

Charles & Senna Heydt  
282 Taft Court  
River Edge, New Jersey 07661

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#20-291 Refund of Construction Bond for Shade Trees to Christine Yoon for the Property Located at 183 Van Saun Drive, River Edge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, Christine Yoon deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 183 Van Saun Drive in the amount of \$2,503.20 on March 8, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the trees at this location were not affected by construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$2,503.20 be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is authorized to make the following refund of \$2,503.20 from the Trust Other Account to:

Christine Yoon  
183 Van Saun Drive  
River Edge, New Jersey 07661

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#20-292 Approve the Hire of a Temporary Library Assistant

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that Linda Van Valkenburg be and she is hereby hired as a part-time Temporary Library Assistant at an hourly rate of \$15.00 for 5 to 10 hours per week, effective January 4, 2021.

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#20-293 Amend Agreement with The Canning Group LLC for an Interim Business Administrator

WHEREAS, there exists a need for an Interim Administrator while the Borough conducts a search for a permanent Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has previously awarded a contract to the Canning Group LLC via resolution #20-236 on October 13, 2020 in the amount of \$40,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Canning Group, LLC and the Borough entered into a Professional Services Contract wherein the Canning Group, LLC provided the Borough with an Interim Administrator at an hourly rate of \$115.00; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is required for professional services related to providing the Borough with an Interim Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that funds are available from Account #0-01-20-100-028 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$52,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, The Canning Group, LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that The Canning Group, LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit The Canning Group, LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement

with The Canning Group, LLC, 45 S. Park Place 183, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00; and

2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(l)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.

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#20-294 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 Chief Financial Officer 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: Employee Group Health	#0-01-23-220-090	\$17,000.00
TO: Administration O/E	#0-01-20-100-028	\$10,000.00
TO: Land Use Board S & W	#0-01-21-180-011	\$ 4,500.00
TO: Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	#0-01-36-478-100	\$ 2,500.00

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#20-295 Authorize Redemption and Disbursement of Tax Sale Certificate

WHEREAS, at the Tax Sale held on December 17, 2020, Certificate #20-00001 was sold to Sunshine State Certificated VIII, LLLP on the property known as 404 Oak Ave, River Edge, New Jersey, Block: 909 Lot: 50, owner of record: Deborah Mei; and

WHEREAS, Sunshine State Certificates VIII, LLLP, had also paid a premium in the amount of \$91,300.00 which was held in escrow by the Borough of River Edge; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Mei, owner, has requested a redemption amount on the above certificate as of 1/22/20 within ten days of the Tax Sale and has submitted a certified check in the amount of \$17,183.94 to redeem the above lien.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue 2 checks, one in the amount of \$17,183.94 for the redemption of the lien and one in the amount of \$91,300.00, the premium, which was held in escrow, both payable to Sunshine State Certificates VIII, LLLP, and the Tax Collector to redeem the lien and adjust her records accordingly.

Please make the checks payable to: Sunshine State Certificates VIII, LLLP  
7900 Miami Lakes Drive West  
Miami Lakes, Florida 33016

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#20-296 Resolution to Authorize Tax Collector to Adjust the 2020 Final Tax Bill and Refund Overpaid Taxes from 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020

WHEREAS, County Board Judgments were received for the year 2020 by the tax office on December 21, 2020 reducing the Assessed Value on properties which received incorrect Added Assessments on 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and preliminary billing; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in the Assessment for 2020 has also reduced the total tax amount due for 2020; and

WHEREAS, property taxes for 2020 are paid.

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

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Property Owner/Address</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
509/10	Andriano, Daniel T & Dana 292 Monroe Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	2,052.75
705/15	Kasaryan, Nubar C & Tania V 204 Manning Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	2,634.66

808/12

Giallorenzo, Peter & Colleen  
365 Windsor Road  
River Edge, NJ 07661

1,006.46

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#20-297 Resolution Authorizing Separation Agreement with Police Chief Thomas Cariddi

WHEREAS, Thomas Cariddi began his career as a police officer in the River Edge Police Department on January 1, 1985; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Cariddi was appointed by the Borough as Chief of Police on February 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Chief Cariddi has tendered a written notice of his intent to retire from the River Edge Police Department on December 31, 2020 and the Council hereby accepts same, and

WHEREAS, Chief Cariddi has accumulated unused vacation days and is due a severance payment per N.J.A.C. 5:30-15.4 and Borough Ordinance 585; and

WHEREAS, the parties believe that a Separation Agreement establishing final compensation should be entered into by and between the Borough and Chief Cariddi in order to document the terms of his retirement and;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to authorize a Separation Agreement by and between the Borough of River Edge and Chief Cariddi which establishes final compensation due and owing to Chief Cariddi upon retirement and separation of service from the River Edge Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Separation Agreement is on file at the office of the Borough Clerk and can be reviewed during normal business hours;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, by the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge and on behalf of the citizens of the Borough, express their gratitude and appreciation for the many years of dedicated law enforcement service of Chief Thomas Cariddi to the Borough of River Edge and wishes him a healthy and enjoyable retirement; and
2. That the Council does hereby authorize and approve the Separation Agreement by and between the Borough of River Edge and Chief Cariddi establishing final compensation to



Chief Cariddi upon retirement and separation of service from the River Edge Police Department effective December 31, 2020; and

3. The Borough authorizes and directs, the Mayor, Borough Clerk and Borough Chief Financial Officer to execute any and all necessary documents in order to implement the intent of this Resolution; and

ADOPTED, at the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE**

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Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Stephanie Evans  
Municipal Clerk

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#20-298 Resolution Appointing Temporary Purchasing Agent

WHEREAS, July 1, 2020 commenced the revision to the Local Public Contracts Law which created a bid threshold of \$17,500 for municipalities without a Qualified Purchasing Agent or \$44,000 for municipalities with a Qualified Purchasing Agent, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge can save significant funds in its budget by having a Qualified Purchasing Agent, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kevin Galland, was appointed as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Borough of River Edge, via Resolution #20-231 on October 13, 2020, as he had been serving as Interim Borough Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galland has completed his contractual services as Interim Borough Administrator for the Borough of River Edge as of December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 (G) of the Local Public Contracts Law provides a vacancy provision for those contracting units that had previously been served by a QPA as their purchasing agent; and

WHEREAS, if a QPA vacates the position, the appointing authority for the contracting unit

may appoint, for one year from the date of vacancy, a person who does not possess a QPA certificate as “Temporary Purchasing Agent”, and

WHEREAS, the contracting unit using the vacancy provision does not have to lower their bid threshold during such time and can remain at the maximum bid threshold, which is currently \$44,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that Borough Administrator, Lissette Aportela, is hereby appointed as the Borough’s “Temporary Purchasing Agent” for one year or until such QPA certification is obtained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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#20-299 Resolution Adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen, New Jersey, has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damage to private and public property;

WHEREAS, the hazard mitigation planning process set forth by the State of New Jersey and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risk through the adoption of a Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (“Hazard Mitigation Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is providing federal mitigation funds to support development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Mitigation Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was provided to each participating jurisdiction and was posted on the County Office of Emergency Management’s website so as to introduce the planning concept and to solicit questions and comments; and to present the Hazard Mitigation Plan and request comments, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted by the Bergen County Office of

Emergency Management to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have approved the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted; and

WHEREAS, formal adoption and maintenance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by the governing body is a condition of receipt of federal disaster aid; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management has recommended to the County Executive and Board of Chosen Freeholders that the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020, be adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the County of Bergen.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the **Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen**, upon the recommendation of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, as follows:

1. The Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020 by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management is hereby adopted as an official plan of the County of Bergen; minor revisions recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
2. A hard copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be kept on file at the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, and a digital copy shall be posted on the web site of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management.
3. Any action proposed by the Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the County of Bergen, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriations.
4. The Bergen County Office of Emergency Management shall prepare an annual progress report on the goals set forth in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Copies of those reports will be kept on file at the office of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management. The status reports shall be submitted on an annual basis by a predetermined date as agreed upon by all stakeholders, and as required by applicable statutes and regulations.

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Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #20-300 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier, resolution #20-300 was unanimously approved.

#20-300 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 January 4, 2021.

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

CURRENT FUND	\$531,971.09
CAPITAL FUND	\$ 69,369.00
ANIMAL CONTROL FUND	\$ 174.64
TRUST OTHER FUND	\$ 119,380.81
OPEN SPACE FUND	\$ 745.00
PAYROLL FUND	\$ 16,686.66
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW FUND	\$ 3,390.00
SELF INSURANCE TRUST FUND	\$ 4,395.86

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

On motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to open for public comments was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Busteed, seconded by Councilman Chinigo to close public comments was unanimously approved.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS - None**

**ADJOURNMENT – 6:46 P.M.**

On motion by Councilman Chinigo, seconded by Councilman Gautier to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Attest:

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Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk  
Dated:

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Mayor Thomas Papaleo