

MINUTES
Mayor and Council Regular Meeting
September 25, 2025
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER –

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge was held in person at the River Edge Public Library located at 685 Elm Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 and virtually via Zoom on September 25, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Thomas Papaleo.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Papaleo asked for a moment of silence for the world and country as the United Nation meets in New York City. Borough Attorney Shahdanian then led those present in a salute to the flag.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE -

Mayor Papaleo read the Statement of Compliance into the record as follows:

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on January 6, 2025 of this location, date and time to the Town 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.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President Montisano-Koen, Councilwoman Kinsella, Councilwoman Malellari, Councilman Benson, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Dhariwal, and Mayor Papaleo.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Lissette Aportela
Borough Attorney John Shahdanian, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On a motion by Council President Montisano-Koen, seconded by Councilman Benson, with Councilwoman Dhariwal abstaining from the August 19th Minutes and Councilwoman Kinsella abstaining from the September 4th Minutes and all other members present voting in favor, that the Minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting and Closed Session of August 19, 2025 and Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of September 4, 2025 are hereby approved.

#25-246 Approve the Appointment of a Volunteer Firefighter

Motion by Council President Montisano-Koen, second by Councilman Benson, to approve Resolution #25-246.

The vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen: aye

Councilman Benson:

aye

Councilwoman Kinsella: aye
Councilwoman Malellari: aye

Councilman Glass: aye
Councilwoman Dhariwal: aye

Mayor Papaleo administered the Oath of Office to Alfredo Nivar who was joined by his family.

Chief Schlossberg commented that he is delighted to have Firefighter Nivar join the department, noting that they have a very aggressive recruitment program.

PRESENTATIONS –

River Edge Swim Club Lease

Teresa Donohue, River Edge Swim Club President. Bob Bollerman, Office Manager, Myriam Miguek, Treasurer, Samantha Berman, Secretary, and Colleen Schwabik, Trustee, were present for this discussion.

Ms. Donohue noted that the River Edge Swim Club has been a treasured part of the community for the past 64 years. She explained that the club is fiscally sound and has 100% of the bond money in its possession. She respectfully requested the renewal of their lease with no increase in the rates.

Borough Administrator Aportela confirmed that the amount paid for the rental fee as well water and sewer charges has been sufficient to cover the costs.

Mr. Bollerman, Business Manager, provided background on when the \$501 fee went into effect. He noted that the club pays the full amount of taxes.

Ms. Schwabik commented that all members of the Board of Trustees put their heart and soul into running the swim club.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

On motion by Councilman Benson, seconded by Council President Montisano-Koen, and all present voting in favor, to open for public comments on any item on the agenda.

Borough Clerk Dodd read the following written public comment into the record from Cindy Bequeaith, 745 7th Avenue, Re: Agenda item regarding Section 384-7, entitled “Tree replacement requirements”, of Article II, Tree Removal and Replacement of Chapter 384:

“I would appreciate if you would consider adding wording to the updated ordinance so special circumstances can be considered for exceptions. When the tree count on properties is significant, there should be an ability for those fees to be waived. I am not asking for this waiver to be used when trees are taken down for construction.

I have 29 trees on my property. Of those, 13 trees are in Category 2 which are between 16”-24” in diameter (a variety of oaks) which are over 75 feet tall. 17 trees are in Category 1 with smaller diameters (Beeches, Arborvitaes, Hinoki Cypresses, Pines, Magnolia, Junipers, Japanese Maple, etc.) but are all over 15 feet tall. We’ve planted 13 new trees since we moved into our home in 2010.

We bought our home in a large part due to the trees and other plantings on the property. We love our ‘forest-like’ setting, and we don’t plan on taking down any trees unless they are diseased or have the potential to do damage to our property, our neighbors’ properties, or public access.

Thank you for your consideration.”

On a motion by Councilwoman Malellari, seconded by Councilman Benson, and all present voting in favor, to close public comments on any item on the agenda.

It was noted that there is already an exemption from the fees in the current Borough Code for trees that are hazardous and require removal. Borough Clerk Dodd was asked to relay this information to Ms. Bequeaith.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Mayor Papaleo advised that the following reports are on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and available for review:

Tax Collector	-	August 31, 2025
Land Use Board	-	August 27, 2025
Board of Health	-	September 2, 2025

FIRST READING – ORDINANCES –

Ordinance #25-15 – 25-18

Motion by Councilman Benson that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting October 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Council Chambers in the River Edge Municipal Building as the place and Zoom as the virtual platform for a hearing on said ordinance. Second by Councilman Glass.

Mayor Papaleo read the title of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 25-15 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 286 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED “MULTIPLE DWELLINGS, REGISTRATION OF”.

ORDINANCE 25-16 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 438-4 ENTITLED “INSPECTIONS” OF CHAPTER 438 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED “CHILD-CARE FACILITIES”.

ORDINANCE 25-17 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 206 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED FEES.

ORDINANCE 25-18 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 384-7 AND 384-8 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 384 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED “TREES”

Borough Administrator Aportela noted that Ordinance #25-15 through #25-18 were based upon recommendations approved by the Board of Health. She advised that Ordinance #25-15 updates the number of apartments from two to three within a building that requires an inspection, Ordinance #25-16 increases the fees for inspection of child-care facilities, and Ordinance #25-17 increases various permit fees relating to the Board of Healthy by approximately 25%. With respect to Ordinance #25-18, she advised that the purpose is to preserve the tree canopy within the Borough and includes a refundable bond requirement for tree removals on private property.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen:	aye	Councilman Benson:	aye
Councilwoman Kinsella:	aye	Councilman Glass:	aye
Councilwoman Malellari:	aye	Councilwoman Dhariwal:	aye

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

- a. **#25-244** Update Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual
- b. **#25-245** Approve Refunds – Recreation Department
- c. ~~**#25-246** Approve the Appointment of a Volunteer Firefighter~~ *Approved earlier in the meeting*
- d. **#25-247** Renew Contract – Grant Writing Services
- e. **#25-248** Authorize the Acceptance of a Donation of Pickleball Nets for Kenneth B. George Park
- f. **#25-249** Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party on Seventh Avenue
- g. **#25-250** Approve Change Order #1 – 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive
- h. **#25-251** Approval to Waive a Portion of the Police Outside Duty Rate for Bergen County Historical Society
- i. **#25-252** Approve the Appointment of Crossing Guard

Motion by Councilwoman Malellari, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen:	aye	Councilman Benson:	aye
Councilwoman Kinsella:	aye	Councilman Glass:	aye
Councilwoman Malellari:	aye	Councilwoman Dhariwal:	aye

#25-253 Payment of Bills

Councilwoman Kinsella read resolution #25-253 into the record:

At a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, held on September 25, 2025.

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

CURRENT FUND	\$	5,322,217.51
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$	23,204.60
GRANT FUND	\$	113,193.27
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$	3.60
TRUST OTHER	\$	1,937.52

PAYROLL	\$	23,781.32
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW	\$	6,839.30
RECREATION TRUST	\$	8,498.85

Motion by Councilwoman Malellari, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, to approve Resolution #25-253.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Council President Montisano-Koen:	aye	Councilman Benson:	aye
Councilwoman Kinsella:	aye	Councilman Glass:	aye
Councilwoman Malellari:	aye	Councilwoman Dhariwal:	aye*

*Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from check #66968, #66989, #66990, #66991, #66999, #67009, #67014, #67035, #67048, #67049, #67058, #2993, and #6120 through #6127.

FOR DISCUSSION –

Proposed Ordinance Entitled Board, Commission and Committees

Borough Administrator Aportela explained that this ordinance resulted from questions regarding attendance requirements from Department Heads who oversee various boards, commissions and committees. In researching the issue, she advised that she came across the Citizenship Service Act which allows a municipality to implement an attendance policy giving them the option to declare a position as vacant if the member fails to attend or participate in meetings for eight consecutive weeks or four consecutive meetings. She noted, however, that a municipality may put a stricter policy in place by reducing the number of consecutive weeks to six and consecutive meetings to three. She questioned whether the governing body would like to implement such a policy via ordinance, and if so, which policy they would like to implement.

As it was confirmed that the governing body has discretion as to whether to enforce the policy, it was decided to move forward with implementing the stricter policy through a written ordinance.

100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption Letter

Borough Administrator Aportela explained that, at the last meeting, a resolution was adopted authorizing a tax exemption for a 100% disabled veteran effective August 1, 2025. She advised that the veteran and his spouse sent a letter to request that the tax exemption, instead, be effective as of January 1st.

As the delay in receiving the exemption was due to an error made by the Veterans Administration, it was agreed that there are grounds to make the exemption effective retroactively. As resolution will be listed on the next agenda to authorize the effective date of January 1, 2025.

Cultural Center Car Show Letter

Borough Administrator Aportela advised that the Cultural Center sent a letter indicating that they received a bill for outside duty services rendered in connection with the Annual Car Show. This letter

noted that they have never been charged in prior years for these services and did not budget for this expense. She stated that the bill was in the amount of \$1,876.08 for a Sergeant and two Crossing Guards.

It was agreed that, due to the circumstances, the fee will be waived this year only and they will need to submit a request next year to receive the reduced outside duty rate charged to non-profits.

NEW BUSINESS –

There was no New Business.

OLD BUSINESS –

250th Anniversary Committee

Councilwoman Dhariwal advised that the 250th Anniversary Committee is in need of new members and requested that liaisons speak with their respective boards, commission, and committees to request members to join.

Borough Clerk Dodd was asked to reach out to the boards, commissions, and committees to request volunteers to serve on this committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Motion Councilwoman Dhariwal, second by Councilman Benson, and all members present voting in favor, to open public comments.

Andrew Jaffe, 297 Concord Drive, questioned whether the Cultural Center is charged the same rate by both River Edge and Oradell for outside duty.

Lou Grasso, 846 Kinderkamack Road, commented that the proposed parking changes, which will prohibit parking on certain streets from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., will pose a hardship to businesses on Kinderkamack Road. He requested that Washington and Lincoln have a separate zone to help the business district.

Motion by Councilwoman Malellari, second by Councilwoman Kinsella, and all members present voting in favor, to close public comment.

Mayor Papaleo explained that each municipality is its own entity and has its own fees for outside duty. With respect to the proposed parking amendments, he advised that the Traffic & Safety Committee will be holding a Town Hall regarding this matter on Tuesday, September 30th. He stated that Mr. Grasso can join the meeting to make his recommendation. He also recommended that Mr. Grasso send an email to Sgt. Diamond and Chief Walker to recommend this revision.

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Council President Montisano-Koen thanked former Councilwoman Kaufman for managing a very successful Farmers Market. She also thanked Steve Shalit for providing the music.

Councilman Benson reported that he, along with Mayor Papaleo, Councilwoman Kinsella, and Council President Montisano-Koen, attended the soft opening of Sweetspot. He advised that they received a tour of the facility, commenting that it is very impressive. He noted that the Borough will benefit from the 2% tax on their sales and he expressed his hope that they have fantastic success.

Mayor Papaleo added that Chief Walker also attended this event, explaining that he worked with the owners in designing the security system. He spoke to the various ways that the Police Department will ensure that this facility is kept secure. He noted that the facility officially opens to the public on Saturday.

Council President Montisano-Koen announced that Dunkin' on Main Street by CVS held its grand reopening, explaining that the interior was renovated to make it more appealing and homier to all ages. She advised that they donated \$3,000 to a local NGO.

Mayor Papaleo commented that they have been a business in River Edge for 22 years and noted that Chief Walker attended this event as well. He reported that River Edge Day will be held on October 5th with a rain date of October 12th.

CLOSED SESSION –

On a motion from Councilwoman Kinsella, seconded by Councilman Benson, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Executive Session via Resolution #25-254 at 8:05 pm.

#24-254 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances 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 September 25, 2025 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:
 - A. Attorney-Client Privilege – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)
 1. Borough Hall Construction Update
 2. River Edge Swim Club Lease Agreement
 3. Potential Litigation – Unauthorized Street Opening
2. Formal action may/may not be taken.
3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

ADJOURNMENT –

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Kinsella, second by Council President Montisano-Koen, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #25-15

AN ORDINANCE TO CHAPTER 286 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED "MULTIPLE DWELLINGS, REGISTRATION OF".

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the following amendments to Chapter 286 entitled "Multiple Dwellings, Registration of" are hereby approved:

Section 1. Section 286-1, entitled "Statement of ownership" shall be replaced in its entirety with the following:

§ 286-1 Statement of ownership.

Every owner of premises containing three (3) or more apartments used for residential purposes shall file, under oath, with the Health Officer of the borough, a statement containing the address of the premises, the name and address of the owner thereof and the number of apartments in such premises. If the owner is a corporation, such statement shall be made under oath by the president, the vice president or secretary of the corporation.

Section 2. Section 286-2, entitled "Statement of vacancy" shall be replaced in its entirety with the following:

§ 286-2 Statement of vacancy.

Within ten (10) days after a tenant moves out of and vacates an apartment in any residential premises containing three (3) or more dwelling units, the owner of such premises shall file with the Health Officer a statement under oath containing the address of the premises and the number or other specific designation of the apartment vacated. If the owner is a corporation, such statement shall be made under oath by the president, vice president or secretary of the corporation.

Section 3. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 4. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED:

ADOPTED:

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk/Assistant Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #25-16

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 438-4 ENTITLED “INSPECTIONS” OF CHAPTER 438 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED “CHILD-CARE FACILITIES”.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the following amendments to Section 438-4 entitled “Inspections” are hereby approved:

Section 1. Subsection B, shall have the following amendments:

In order to provide for the proper administration of all relevant standards, regulations and requirements, annual inspection fees, payable to the Health Department of the Borough of River Edge on or before January 31 of each year, are as follows:

Type at Child-Care Center (number of children)	Fee
6 to 50	\$75.00
51 to 100	\$125.00
101 to 200	\$225.00

Section 2. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 3. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED:

ADOPTED:

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk/Assistant Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE #25-17

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 206 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF
THE BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED FEES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the following amendments to Section 206-2 entitled “Schedule of Fees” are hereby approved:

Section 1. Subsection Y is hereby deleted in its entirety.

Section 2. Subsection EE, entitled “Miscellaneous Fees” shall have the following amendments:

Amend:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Shopping carts	\$100
Supermarkets	\$200
Transcripts: birth, death, marriage	\$15
Marriage license	\$28
Domestic partnership	\$28
Farmer’s market weekly vendor fee	\$37 \$34 if pay for whole season in advance

Delete:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Web site advertising	\$25
Tree (from tree farm), each	\$25

Add:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Civil Union	\$28

Section 3. Subsection GG, entitled “Board of Health permits” shall be entirely replaced by the following:

Add:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Bakeries	\$125

Butcheries, meat markets, meat stores	\$125
Farmer's Market annual license	\$30
Liquor stores, taverns, and other establishments serving alcoholic beverages for on-premises or off-premises consumption	\$125
Nursing homes, senior residences, assisted living community centers	\$200
Restaurants and catering (with seating) • 1-25 seats • 26-50 seats • 51-100 seats • Over 100 seats	\$125 \$175 \$300 \$350
Wholesale foods	\$125
Vending devices; food, drink, candy or other consumable products	\$15
Retail food establishments, convenience stores, delicatessens, and all other off-premises consumption establishment with no seats	\$125
Retail establishments selling non-hazardous or pre-packaged foods as a supplement to their primary business	\$125
Confectionery, dessert, or ice cream trucks	\$125
Religious, civic, or non-profit organizations	Fee Exempt
Apartment vacancy inspections for 3 or more units	\$50
Surcharge for food establishments who have two or more conditional or unsatisfactory ratings during one calendar year	\$150
Temporary food permit	\$35
All fees must be paid by February 1 st – Late fee if not paid by February 1 st	\$150

Section 4. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent as they are so in conflict or inconsistent.

Section 5. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED:

ADOPTED:

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk/Assistant Administrator

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
ORDINANCE NO. 25-18**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 384-7 AND 384-8 OF ARTICLE II OF
CHAPTER 384 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF
RIVER EDGE, ENTITLED “TREES”**

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

Section 1. Section 384-7, entitled “Tree replacement requirements”, of Article II, Tree Removal and Replacement of Chapter 384, Trees, of the Code of the Borough of River Edge, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- A. Any person who seeks to remove any street tree, unless exempt under § 384-8, shall be required to obtain a tree removal permit from the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works and shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
- B. Any person who seeks to remove any tree with a DBH of six inches or more from any property within the Borough of River Edge, unless exempt under § 384-8, shall be required to obtain a tree removal permit from the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works and shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.
- C. The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with the most recent list of native trees published by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection which shall be listed in Appendix A
- D. Replacement tree(s):
 - 1) shall be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than the tree removed or meet the tree replacement criteria in the table below;
 - 2) For non-construction removals, must be planted within 12 months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the Borough;
 - 3) If a construction permit is issued, replacement must be completed before a certificate of occupancy is issued by the Building Department;
 - 4) shall be monitored by the applicant for a period of two years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within 12 months; and
 - 5) Shall not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements.
 - 6) and the permit site will be reinspected before close out of the permit.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table:

Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)
1	DBH of 2.5" (for street trees) or 6" (for non-street trees) to 15.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed
2	DBH of 16" to 25.99"	Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed
3	DBH of 26" to 35.99"	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed
4	DBH of 36" or greater	Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed

- E. Administration or application fee for the processing of each tree removal permit is \$100. Any subsequent application or request shall be subject to the same fee requirement. All application fees will be deposited into the shade tree fee account. A refundable bond in the amount of \$400 per tree must be provided at the time of application. Bonds will be refunded once the replacement tree or trees have been planted and inspected by the Superintendent of Public Works or designee.
- F. Replacement alternatives: Unless the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works has determined otherwise, all property owners must replace any tree removed with 100% of the trees that are required in Section 384-7(D) (Tree Replacement Requirements Table) on the approved tree permit that allows the tree removal be done on the property. For any trees that are not replanted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, with the approval of the Superintendent or designee of the Department of Public Works , the applicant shall do one of the following:
- (1) Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.
 - (2) Pay a fee of \$400 per tree not replanted in accordance with the tree replacement criteria in the above table. This fee shall be placed into the Borough's Shade Tree Trust Fund.

Section 2. Section 384-8, entitled "Exemptions", of Article II, Tree Removal and Replacement of Chapter 384, Trees, of the Code of the Borough of River Edge, is hereby amended to read as follows:

All property owners shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined

above, except in the following cases. Proper justification shall be provided, in writing, to the municipality by all property owners claiming an exemption including photos, a detailed explanation as to why they should be exempt and any statements from a licensed tree expert or arborist.

- A. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;
- B. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the Borough;
- C. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan;
- D. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean- up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;
- E. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
- F. Hazard trees may be removed with no fee, provided however, that the grinding of the tree stump is required as part of the removal process.

Section 3. Any and all other ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms hereof are hereby repealed to such extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 4. In case any article, section or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect any other article, section or provision of this ordinance except insofar as the article, section or provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

INTRODUCED: _____

ADOPTED: _____

Thomas Papaleo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk/Assistant Borough Administrator

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-244

Update Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund has established an employment practices risk control program; and

WHEREAS, every two years, the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund reviews applicable laws and regulations to ensure compliance with all regulations and statutes; and

WHEREAS, member municipalities are required to adopt an updated Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual by November 1, 2025; and

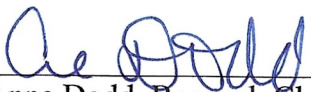
WHEREAS, the current Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual was adopted on August 14, 2023, via Resolution #23-239.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that the entirely updated Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual is hereby approved.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-245

Approve Refunds – Recreation Department

WHEREAS, participants of various programs offered by the River Edge Recreation Department have requested a refund; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator, Lissette Aportela, has reviewed the requests and recommended them for Mayor and Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, that the refunds listed below are hereby approved; and

RESIDENT	ADDRESS	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #
Juhee Kim	223 Voorhis Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Breakdance Class	\$237.00	T-18-55-286-024
Janice Leng	870 Summit Ave, River Edge NJ 07661	Breakdance Class	\$237.00	T-18-55-286-024
Carolina Langschultz	340 Continental Ave River Edge NJ 07661	Breakdance Class	\$237.00	T-18-55-286-024
Jonathan Toledo	313 Taft Rd. River Edge, NJ 07661	Kids Yoga	\$120.00	T-18-55-286-002
Elisa Rojas	288 Monroe Ave River Edge NJ 07661	Adult Tennis Lessons Advanced	\$230.00	T-18-55-286-001
Mathew Leszak	918 5th Ave River Edge , NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Katie Park	215 voorhis ave River edge , NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Jennifer MacRae	253 Princeton Drive River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Janice Leng	870 Summit Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Vanessa Troiano- Herbert	138 Tenney Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Sarah Farevaag	804 Summit Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016

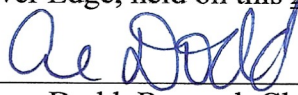
Amy Moranz-Incidis	64 Christie Ave APT 2 River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Michael Cioffi	835 BOGERT RD RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Zeynep Ozkan	811 Bogert Rd River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Wenbo Liu	116 Wayne Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Cindy Calderon	224 Adams Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 1-3)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Sora Sato	1 Jordan dr. Riveredge , NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 4-6)	\$40.00 (2 Children)	T-18-55-286-016
Jeremy Calandrino	296 Wales Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 4-6)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Juhee Kim	223 VOORHIS AVE RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 4-6)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016
Colleen Schwabik	140 Wayne Ave River Edge, NJ 07661	Hockey (Grades 4-6)	\$20.00	T-18-55-286-016

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 2 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.


Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-246

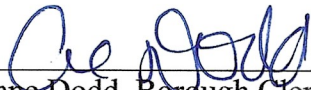
Approve the Appointment of a Volunteer Firefighter

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that Alfredo Nivar be and he is hereby appointed as a Firefighter in the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department effective September 25, 2025.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen	X		X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari			X			
Benson		X	X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25 day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-247

Renew Contract – Grant Writing Services

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2023, via Resolution #23-289, the Mayor and Council awarded a contract for grant writing services to Millennium Strategies for a contract term from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025, with an option to renew the contract for an additional 24 months; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator/Qualified Purchasing Agent recommends renewing the contract for an additional 24 months from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Chief Financial Officer Chris Battaglia has certified funds are available for this service pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(c)(1) in the 2026 and 2027 budgets not to exceed \$20,000.00 per contract year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that a contract for the Grant Writing Services for the Borough of River Edge shall be renewed with Millennium Strategies having its principal office at 60 Columbia Road, Building B, Suite 230, Morristown, NJ 07960 in the amount of \$20,000.00 per contract year from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-248

Authorize the Acceptance of a Donation of
Pickleball Nets for Kenneth B. George Park

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge and the River Edge Recreation Department has received a generous donation offer from residents Elaine and Mark Kramer of 209 Mohawk Drive, for permanent pickleball nets for the new courts currently being constructed at Kenneth B. George Park, from their business, PCKLRAMA, at no cost to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough did not solicit this donation, but was contacted by Mrs. Kramer through the River Edge Recreation Department without conditions or restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Borough of River Edge is permitted to accept donations and gifts; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that acceptance of the aforesaid gift is authorized by law and is in the best interest of the Borough to accept such a gift.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the Borough hereby acknowledges and accepts the donation of the permanent pickleball nets for the courts currently being constructed at Kenneth B. George Park from Elaine and Mark Kramer of PCKLRAMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation Director is hereby authorized to coordinate the retrieval of the donation and storage of the pickleball nets until they can be installed by Gallen Construction, who is the contractor for the Kenneth B. George improvements project.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-249

**Resolution Permitting the Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at a Block Party
on Seventh Avenue**

WHEREAS, on or about September 25, 2025, the Borough of River Edge granted permission to Cindy Bequeaith, 745 Seventh Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey, to hold a block party on Seventh Avenue between Continental Avenue and Webb Avenue on Saturday, October 25th from 12:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. (rain date Sunday, October 26th) in accordance with Borough Ordinance #1678; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Bequeaith has requested that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages be permitted in connection with said block party; and

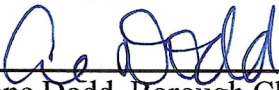
WHEREAS, Borough Code Section 114-15 allows the Governing Body to permit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on a public street or sidewalk in connection with an authorized block party.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that persons age 21 and over be and hereby are permitted to possess and consume alcoholic beverages at the block party described above, on the date and time specified herein.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-250

Approve Change Order #1 –
2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and
Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive

WHEREAS, via resolution #R25-212, adopted July 24, 2025, the Mayor and Council authorized the award of a contract to Matina & Son, Inc., for the 2025 Drainage Improvement at Mohawk Drive and Intersection of Lozier Terrace & Van Saun Drive Project in the amount of \$139,500.00; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-4.7 permits change orders for construction, reconstruction and major repair contracts; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to consider Change Order No. 1 due additional curbing at an increase of \$724.50; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of change orders approved to date including this change order do not exceed the originally awarded contract price by more than 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Engineer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge that it does hereby authorize Change Order No. 1, a copy of which is attached hereto.

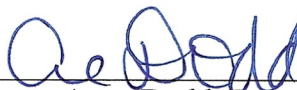
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to execute Change Order #1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Change Order shall increase the final contract price from \$139,500 to \$140,224.50.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-251

Approval to Waive a Portion of the Police Outside Duty Rate for
Bergen County Historical Society

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Historical Society will host an event celebrating Major General Baron Von Steuben (Baronfest) at Historic New Bridge Landing on Saturday, September 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Historical Society has requested one (1) uniformed officer for the duration of the event; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Historical Society has made an appeal to the Mayor and Council to waive the administrative fee portion of the \$150.00 per hour rate and be billed for the officer's overtime rate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have discussed this matter at their meeting of August 19, 2025 and have indicated that the outside duty rate of \$150.00 be waived and that the actual overtime rate of the police officer assigned to that duty be charged.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Police Department and the Chief Financial Officer are instructed to adjust their billing accordingly and to notify the Bergen County Historical Society of the fee to be paid for the services provided.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-252

Approve the Appointment of Crossing Guard

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that Myung C. Lee be and he is hereby appointed as a part-time School Crossing Guard at an hourly probationary rate of \$18.91 with a six-month probationary period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointment date is predicated on passing a physical examination.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-253

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 September 25, 2025.

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

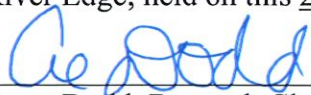
CURRENT FUND	\$	5,322,217.51
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$	23,204.60
GRANT FUND	\$	113,193.27
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$	3.60
TRUST OTHER	\$	1,937.52
PAYROLL	\$	23,781.32
DEVELOPER'S ESCROW	\$	6,839.30
RECREATION TRUST	\$	8,498.85

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen		X	X			
Kinsella			X			
Malellari	X		X			
Benson			X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X*			
Mayor Papaleo						

*Councilwoman Dhariwal recused from check #66968, #66989, #66990, #66991, #66999, #67009, #67014, #67035, #67048, #67049, #67058, #2993, and #6120 through #6127.

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
RESOLUTION #25-254

Resolution to Enter Into Closed Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances 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 September 25, 2025 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:
 - A. Attorney – Client Privilege – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)
 1. Borough Hall Construction Update
 2. River Edge Swim Club Lease Agreement
 3. Potential Litigation - Unauthorized street opening
2. Formal action may/may not be taken.
3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

September 25, 2025

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Montisano-Koen			X			
Kinsella	X		X			
Malellari			X			
Benson		X	X			
Glass			X			
Dhariwal			X			
Mayor Papaleo						

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 1 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, held on this 25th day of September, 2025.



Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk