

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER
June 2, 2022 8:00 p.m.**

*Meeting held via teleconference
due to COVID19*

PRESIDING: Borough Administrator Preusch called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/ Moment of Silence

PUBLIC NOTICE: Pursuant to the Open Sunshine Act P.L. 1975, c. 231, proper notice of this meeting has been provided by submitting appropriate notice to The Ridgewood News and The Record on December 15, 2021 by email in which the time, place and purpose of the meeting was set forth.

❖ **Proclamation – National Gun Violence Awareness Day – June 3, 2022**

Mayor Minichetti read this proclamation, declaring June 3, 2022 National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Borough of Upper Saddle River.

❖ **Proclamation – LGBTQ Pride Month – June, 2022**

Mayor Minichetti read this proclamation, declaring the month of June, 2022 LGBTQ Pride Month in the Borough of Upper Saddle River.

RULE 1. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Joanne L. Minichetti	Present
Council Member	Steven DiMartino	Present
Council Member	Jonathan Ditkoff	Present
Council Member	Sarah Drennan	Present
Council Member	Arman Fardanesh	Present
Council Member	Joanne Florio	Present
Council Member	Roger Masi	Absent

RULE 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were delivered to all members of the governing body, posted on the bulletin board and were unanimously approved following a motion by Council Member DiMartino, seconded by Council Member Florio.

❖ May 5, 2022: Closed and Regular Meeting

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RULE 3. BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT

The Borough Clerk's office received the following fees for the month of May 2022 and deposited them with the Collector/Treasurer:

Landscaper Licenses	\$ 301.00
Garage Sales	\$ 12.00
	\$ 313.00

The Borough Clerk's office issued 8 licenses for the month of May 2022; **\$12.60** was forwarded to the NJ department of Health for the Pilot Clinic and Animal Control Fund.

Proof of publications received:

- ❖ Adoption of Ordinance #02-22: Establish CAP Bank

The following reports were received and are on file for the month of May:

- 1) Police Report
- 2) DPW Report
- 3) Fire Department Report
- 4) Construction Report
- 5) Municipal Court Report

RULE 4. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND BILLS

Approval of Bills: A motion by Council Member DiMartino, seconded by Council Member Fardanesh to pay bills in amount of **\$4,492,486.60** was unanimously approved and Mayor Minichetti declared bills approved for payment and ordered checks drawn.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Communications:

RULE 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RULE 6. NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF A 2022 BERGEN COUNTY TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR ONE LAKE STREET PARK

Borough Administrator Preusch gave an overview of this grant application. The proposed work includes the construction of two new multi-purpose athletic fields with perimeter pathway, four new tennis courts, new perimeter bleachers, and new fieldhouse building.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Joe Abatello, 3 Northern Drive stated that he realizes that the cost to fund this project has increased slightly but he is in favor of this project.

Hiba Maxa, 32 Overbrook Road stated that she is in favor of this project.

Melanie Alper, 8 Strawbridge Drive stated that she is in favor of this project and encouraged the Mayor and Council to include the pickleball courts.

Andrea Lauberbaum, 18 Birchwood Court stated that she is in favor of this project as Lion's Park is not sufficient for all of the town's teams.

Jeffrey Adams, 43 Lilline Lane stated that he is in favor of this project.

Ken Fiori, 15 Blue Spruce Drive stated that he is in favor of this project as it will increase property values.

Bryan & Michelle Deutsch, 13 Woodmere Court stated that he coaches several sports and this project will be very beneficial to all of the sports programs in the Borough.

Gregory Tramontozzi, 2 Evergreen Drive, stated that he supports the construction of this facility.

Chris Pasata, 8 Dogwood Hill Road stated that he coaches several sports and he supports this project. Field time is often very difficult to obtain and this additional facility will help that issue.

Eric Friis, 4 Sparrowbush Road stated that this project should have been brought to a referendum and he is not in favor of this project. He further stated that funds should be allocated to security in the schools.

Frank Inserra, 24 Holly Drive stated that he feels that this project will be an asset to the community.

Lawrence Weiner, 71 Old Chimney Road stated that he is in favor of this project.

Matthew O'Connor, 55 Lilline Lane stated that this facility will be an asset to Upper Saddle River.

David Aarons, 56 Echo Ridge Road stated that he is in favor of this project as it is long overdue.

Noel Flynn, 64 Union Avenue stated that he is in favor of this grant application.

Eric Weiner, 8 Brookside Drive stated that he coaches several sports in the community and he is in support of this project.

Richardson Family, 16 Winding Way is in favor of this project.

Jeremy Nanus, 28 Yeoman Drive is very supportive of this project.

Giovanni Arranz, 5 Ranch Road expressed his support for this project and feels it will foster community spirit.

Mr. Aarons asked why, if this was previously approved, is it being addressed. He was informed that a public hearing must take place in order to proceed with the grant application.

Motion to approve the submission of the Bergen County Grant Application for One Lake Street Park offered by Council Member DiMartino. Seconded by Council President Ditkoff.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF A 2022 BERGEN COUNTY TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR CREATIVE GARDENS TRACT ACQUISITION: 409 EAST SADDLE RIVER ROAD

Mr. Robert Gross, Boswell Engineering, gave a brief overview of this project. He explained that this property consists of four lots in the R-1 Zone and proposed work includes future passive-use park for bird-watching, vegetative enhancement, and environmental education. The grant request is in the amount of \$1,880,000; 80% of the purchase price of the property.

Erik Friis, 4 Sparrowbush Road stated that he is in favor of this project.

Motion to approve the submission of the Bergen County Grant Application for One Lake Street Park offered by Council Member Fardanesh. Seconded by Council Member Drennan.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Consent Agenda:

All items listed with an asterisk (*) hereunder, are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Council and shall be so approved. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Open to the Public: (For Consent Agenda Items Only)

- *1. Resolution #95-22 Review, Reform & Amendment of OPRA
- *2. Resolution #96-22 Disposal of USRPD Property of GovDeals
- *3. Resolution #97-22 Return of Escrow Funds
- *4. Resolution #98-22 Renewal of ABC Pocket License East Crescent Dev. Group
- *5. Resolution #99-22 Renewal of ABC Pocket License Beso XOXO
- *6. Resolution #100-22 Renewal of Plenary Dist. License USR Liquors, LLC
- *7. Resolution #101-22 Prof. Serv. Agmt. Retain Michael Burke, Esq.
- *8. Resolution #102-22 Cancel Uncollectable Taxes Blk. 506 Lot 9
- *9. Resolution #103-22 Approval to Submit NJJDOT Grant Appl. – Carlough Rd. Improv.
- *10. Resolution #104-22 Auth. Emergency Appropriation
- *11. Resolution #105-22 Auth. Tax Collector to Send Estimated Tax Bills

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items offered by Council Member Drennan. Seconded by Council Member Florio.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

***Introduction of Ordinance # 03-22**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 98 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER ENTITLED, "PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS"

Offered by Council Member Fardanesh
Seconded by Council Member DiMartino

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

***Introduction of Ordinance # 04-22**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A PORTION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 1016, LOT 5 TO BE KNOWN AS LOT 5.02 IN FURTHERANCE OF THE BOROUGH'S ADOPTED AND APPROVED HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN.

Offered by Council Member Drennan
Seconded by Council Member Ditkoff

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

***Introduction of Ordinance # 05-22**

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,933,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Offered by Council Member DiMartino
Seconded by Council Member Ditkoff

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RULE 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Erica Fields, 14 Northern Drive stated that she would like to donate a Pride flag for the Borough Hall.

John Gould, 11 Upper Cross Road commented about the flooding on Upper Cross Road and stated that the river bed needs to be redirected in order to prevent this from occurring after more severe storms. He was informed that a grant has been applied for to address this problem but the NJDEP would likely not permit redirecting the Saddle River at that location.

Greg Morabito, 14 Cottontail Trail stated that his home has flooded three times in the last year and asked how the Borough plans to address this matter.

Eric Friis, 4 Sparrowbush Road stated that there continues to be muddy water running off of the Apple Ridge site and he has video footage. Additionally, he commented about being unable to view other participants attending this meeting. He asked about the air traffic noise and requested an update. He asked if the eruv installations have been extended in Upper Saddle River.

RULE 8. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council President Ditkoff stated that the Borough is in favor of the One Lake Street Park and it was not practical to have a referendum for this project.

Borough Administrator Preusch stated that the school security issue is being addressed with the Police Department on an ongoing basis. The Board of Education is ultimately in charge of school security.

Mayor Minichetti addressed the air traffic issue and stated that an air monitor has been installed in Woodcliff Lake in order to track plane noise. A software system has also been introduced in order to track noise. Residents continue to be encouraged to lodge complaints.

She further stated that there are no additional eruv installations in Upper Saddle River but the contract has been extended for an additional three years.

The Borough Administrator, DPW and Borough Engineer will address the water problems throughout the Borough.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini, RMC
Municipal Clerk