

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Due to the current situation involving the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular session meeting of the Mayor and Council was held remotely. The meeting was accessible by telephone, by dialing one of the numbers listed below and entering the meeting ID number 944 1129 3107.**

**+1 646 558 8656 US  
+1 301 715 8592 US  
+1 312 626 6799 US**

**+1 669 900 9128 US  
+1 253 215 8782 US  
+1 346 248 7799 US**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sokolich, Council Members Sohmer, Sargenti, Cervieri, Via Teleconference - Kasofsky, Yoon, Suh

**ALSO PRESENT:** Al Restaino, Borough Administrator  
Evelyn Rosario, Borough Clerk  
J. Sheldon Cohen, Borough Attorney

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

In accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 adequate notice informing the public of the time and place of this meeting was duly published in the Record issue of December 22, 2020 and the Jersey Journal and Star Ledger issues of December 24, 2020. Said notice was also posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board, and on the outside door of Borough Hall and the Borough website.

**MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“Good evening everybody. Just a couple of quick remarks, and I certainly do not want to be duplicative of one of my famous videos; but I think it is worthy of reiteration. Last week, on literally hours’ notice, we put together a COVID Hotline. The idea behind this initiative was to reach folks that do not have a computer, do not have an email address, do not feel comfortable with the computer. We have a lot of seniors in town and a lot of these folks are not comfortable going online. You know it is counter intuitive we have our Police Department rightfully expressing to our seniors on almost an hourly basis “Do not go on a sight you are not familiar with”, “Do not respond to emails you are not familiar with” and now we are asking them to go onto these sights. It is harrowing. The idea was let us get out there and have them call the number. Well over the course of five days, 4 hours each day we received over 1400 phone calls. Of those 1400 phone calls, over 700 of those phone calls were from people that had not yet registered on the state portal and because of the heroic effort of our volunteers, they registered right there and then. These folks now the people calling if they didn’t have an email address, we gave them our generic covid email address which we monitor regularly. If we find out that they are being contacted for an appointment we will track them down, we will let them know. We will drive them there if we need to and assume that burden and that responsibility. There were 600 of the 1400 that were already registered. The hotline was not designed for those folks but that is OK I get it everybody just wants to exercise every option they have, to get a vaccine, so we turned no one down. 1400 calls, 700 new uploads but it also accomplished a dual purpose and that was to get on what I am calling the Fort Lee list. Now it’s no secret, Fort Lee has gotten 300 vaccines over the course of the last month. We were able to take care of our remaining health care providers, those emergency service workers that did not get a shot, some of our most infirmed and that has been taking care of. We are now working on the list over 65 or under 64 with preconditions that are that are promulgated by the CDC. Where am I going with this? You are now on the Fort Lee List. We do not expect vaccines tomorrow or next week but when the supply is more ample, we do expect to start getting tranches of 100 here,

200 there. When that happens, we will go to what I am calling our Fort Lee list, we will contact you. If you have already been vaccinated through the state portal, great. We will move to the next person on the list and we will continue to make sure everybody on that list gets a vaccine either through the state or through Fort Lee. The problem with the Fort Lee list is we do not know how many and we do not know when. I am hoping we get them tomorrow. We were promised 400 a month ago we got 200, we were promised 100 last week, I do not know if we got any. It's a harrowing period but I have to believe the supply will be a lot more ample in the not too distant future and we will get to everybody on that list. Stay patient, we got you and we will get to that list. Please Fort Lee if you called and you are a part of the 1400, if the state contacts you, do not say "No, my Mayor's got me" or "my Council's got me". Go on that appointment because we do not know when we will be getting the vaccine, right guys? That is the problem here. When we get them you will hear from us and when you get a call from us, we will be in possession of vaccines. No more anticipating their arrival because we have been assured. Once they are in our physical possession, we will call you. We will not give you a lot of notice, but that is ok. We will make sure to get you to the center. I do want to extend a huge shout out, once again to Bryan and to all our Fort Lee OEM volunteers. I am going to forget a name, so I will not mention any. They are just fantastic! A huge shout out once again to our Senior Center Staff. Whatever we do, whatever we are not doing; they rise to the occasion they are just there, and they just do it. Whether its lunch or whether its manning the phones. One last thing, volunteers from Fort Lee High School, who are some of the smartest students in the galaxy. At one point these kids, from what I hear from Bryan Drumgoole, were taking 2 new registrants every 30 seconds, 2 new registrants every 30 seconds! To the Fort Lee High School volunteers to Key Club we'll never forget you. That was an incredible undertaking. Sorry that took so long."

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 17, 2020 Regular Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 17, 2020 - January 2, 2021 Recessed were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Work Session were approved.

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

NONE

### **ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Ord. #2021 -1 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 42, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SECTION 2, COMPOSITION, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE "**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to Ord. #2021-1 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 42, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SECTION 2, COMPOSITION, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE"**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 42, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SECTION 2, COMPOSITION, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Chapter 42, Advisory Committee for Individuals With Disabilities, Section 2, Composition, is hereby amended as follows:

42-2. Composition.

The Advisory Committee for Individuals With Disabilities will be composed of the following classes of persons:

- A. The Committee shall be comprised of at least 18 and no more than 20 persons, at least eleven (11) of which shall be persons with disabilities or parents of a child with a disability or a resident family member who is the caregiver of a person with a disability. The balance of the Committee shall be composed of the following Borough departments or representatives: Liaison of the Mayor and Council; one or two representatives from either Buildings, General Services, Recreation, or Parks; Parking Authority; School District; one of the Emergency Services (either Police, Fire or Emergency Management); Legal Advisor; Senior Center Director; American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), President, and a member of the business community.
- B. The specific appointments to the aforesaid Committee shall be made by the Mayor and Council for three-year terms, such appointments to be made by the Mayor and Council within one month after the adoption of this chapter.
- C. The Committee as constituted shall meet at least quarterly, shall by a majority vote select a Chairman to serve for a one-year period, such selection to be made each year, and shall act pursuant to bylaws to be created by the Committee and adopted by a majority vote thereof within 90 days from the formation of the Committee.
- D. The record of proceedings of Committee meetings shall be kept, and such record, as well as any recommendations or advice of the Committee to the Mayor and Council, shall be provided no later than 60 days after each meeting.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

**On motion by Councilman Sohmer, seconded by Council man Sargenti**, the Ordinance was **adopted** on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**ORD. #2021-2 "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR PBA LOCAL 245 NEGOTIATIONS UNIT FOR JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025"**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S argenti, and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to Ord. #2021-2 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR PBA LOCAL 245 NEGOTIATIONS UNIT FOR JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025"**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR PBA LOCAL 245 NEGOTIATIONS UNIT FOR JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee as follows:

**SECTION I:** All employees covered by the PBA Local 245 Negotiations Unit shall

receive salaries during the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 as established by the Police Wage Schedule (Schedule A; A-I), which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and other monetary compensation set forth in the said Collective Negotiation Agreement.

**SECTION II:** This ordinance shall supersede any other salary ordinance for members of the PBA Local 245 Negotiations Unit.

**SECTION III:** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as prescribed by law.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council man Sargenti,** the Ordinance was **adopted** on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**ORD. #2021-3 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021 - 2022**

\*Councilman Sargenti recused.

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to Ord. #2021-3** entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021 - 2022"

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021 - 2022**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee as follows:

SECTION I: All employees covered by the **White-Collar Bargaining Unit** (Schedule A), shall receive salaries for 2021 and 2022, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SECTION II: This ordinance reflects the minimum salaries to be paid to current employees in said title and does not necessary include the starting salary for any new employee hired after this ordinance is adopted.

SECTION III: All salary increases reflect a two percent (2%) salary increase for 2021 and a two-point twenty-five percent (2.25%) increase for 2022.

SECTION IV: This ordinance shall supersede any other previous salary ordinances for members of the **White-Collar Bargaining Unit** .

SECTION V: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication prescribed by law.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer.**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council man Sohmer,** the Ordinance was **adopted** on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**ORD. #2021-4 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR BLUE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021-2022**

\*Councilman Sargenti recused.

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to Ord. #2021-4 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR BLUE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021-2022"**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021 - 2022**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee as follows:

**SECTION I:** All employees covered by the **Blue Collar Bargaining Unit** shall receive salaries during the 2021 and 2022 as established by the Blue Collar Memorandum of Agreement for the years 2021 through 2022. (Schedule B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6), which are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**SECTION II:** This ordinance reflects the minimum salaries to be paid to current employees in said title and does not necessary include the starting salary for any new employee hired after this ordinance is adopted.

**SECTION III:** This ordinance shall supersede any other salary ordinance for members of the **Blue Collar Bargaining Unit**.

**SECTION IV:** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as prescribed by law.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer.**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council man Sohmer, the Ordinance was adopted** on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**ORD. #2021-5 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-13 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, BOROUGH CLER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TAX COLLECTOR, TAX ASSESSOR AND CERTAIN NON-UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2017-2021"**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S argenti, and carried, the public hearing was opened relative to Ord. #2021-5 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-13 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, BOROUGH CLER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TAX COLLECTOR, TAX ASSESSOR AND CERTAIN NON-UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2017-2021"**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-13 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, BOROUGH CLERK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TAX COLLECTOR, TAX ASSESSOR AND CERTAIN NON-UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2017-2021**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee as follows:

**SECTION I:** All employees covered by the **Department Head Bargaining Unit** (Schedule A), shall receive salaries for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as established by the Department Head Contract for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

**SECTION II:** All **Non-Union Personnel** listed in (Schedules B and C) shall receive salaries for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as outlined in (Schedules B & C),

which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SECTION III: All salary increases for 2017-2021 reflect a two percent (2%) salary increase for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the Mayor and Council. In addition all employees listed in (Schedules A and B) receive additional compensation as negotiated per the Department Head Contract.

SECTION IV: This ordinance shall supersede any other previous salary ordinance for members of the **Department Head Bargaining Unit** and **Non-Union Personnel** as listed in (Schedules A, B and C).

SECTION VI: This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication prescribed by law.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council man Sargenti**, the Ordinance was **adopted** on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2021 BOROUGH OF FORT LEE  
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET**

**Councilman Cervieri made a motion to open the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilman Sohmer.**

There being no public comments, the public hearing relative to the **“2021 Budget of the Fort Lee Special Improvement District “was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

**Councilman Cervieri made a motion to adopt the 2021 Budget of the Fort Lee Special Improvement District motion seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

**AYES: Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations (available in the office of the Borough Clerk) shall constitute the Fort Lee Special Improvement District Budget for the year 2021; and

The Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee does hereby approve the following as the Fort Lee Special Improvement District Budget for year 2021 (Available in the office of the Municipal Clerk):

<b>Fort Lee Special Improvement District Budget</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
SID Assessment	\$723,715.02	Footnote # 1

Donations	\$0.00	
Sponsorship	\$0.00	
Capital Fund / Investment	\$849,000.00	Footnote # 2 – Due to COVID did not provide capital projects
Special Event Revenue	\$0.00	
Loan	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,572,715.02</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Operations</b>		
Management	\$8,000.00	
Maintenance/Supplies	\$120,000.00	CDS and Borough
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$128,000.00</b>	
<b>MARKETING</b>		
Management	\$41,820.00	
Web + Application	\$20,000.00	
Year Long Holiday - Special Events	\$185,000.00	
Business Attraction	\$50,000.00	Increased for tenant retail/ residential program
Marketing/Branding	\$60,000.00	
Retail Program	\$40,000.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$396,820.00</b>	
<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMS</b>		
Management	\$33,820.00	
Lights/Banners/Displays	\$70,000.00	
Improvements/Welcome/Visual/ Engineering, Plantings, etc.	\$843,000.00	Footnote #2- Due to COVID, did not provide capital projects, will utilize, adding sign grant programs

<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$946,820.00</b>	
<b>Administration</b>		
Management	\$14,760.00	
Accounting	\$6,000.00	
Dues & Subs	\$2,000.00	
Insurance	\$1,500.00	Liability and D&O;
Rent	\$24,000.00	
Cable/phone/internet	\$3,600.00	
Postage	\$600.00	
Office /Equipment/Etc.	\$4,000.00	
Meeting Supplies	\$3,000.00	
Miscellaneous/Utilities	\$5,429.27	
Uncollected Reserve (5%)	\$36,185.75	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$101,075.02</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,572,715.02</b>	
<b>Footnote # 1</b> Current Assessment at Municipal tax rate; then of taxes paid X. 0048% SID Rate remains the same = BDA assessment, creating a \$19,968.12 increase		
<b>Footnote # 2</b> – Due to COVID we did not provide 2020 capital projects (\$700k)		
The Capital Investment = CD + balance of 2020 funds TBC		
<b>Footnote #3</b> – TBC February may be reduced		

It is hereby certified that the within budget (Available in the Office of the Municipal Clerk) is a true copy of the Fort Lee Special District Improvement budget finally adopted by the Governing on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2021.

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**Certified by me on this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2021**  
**Evelyn Rosario, Municipal Clerk**  
**Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen**

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**



Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X				
Yoon						
Suh						
Sargenti						
Kasofsky						
Cervieri	X					

February 18, 2021  
Regular Session Meeting

Resolution # CA-1 to CA-7

Carried: \_\_\_ Defeated: \_\_\_ Tabled: \_\_\_

Approved on Consent Agenda: X

**CA-1 Payment of Claims**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following claims, the details for which are attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby authorized to be paid, having been audited and found correct by the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Current	\$15,947,306.52
Current - Grant	13,577.60
Capital	627,321.38
Road Improvement Plan	
Multiple Dwelling	
Construction Fees	
COAH Fees	
Senior Citizen Advisory Council	
Trip Admissions	
Special Dog Account	918.00
Trust Account Fund	
Disability Insurance Trust	
Public Assistance Trust Fund	
Police Activity Trust	
Fort Lee Film Commission	
Community Development	
Redemption Account	146,841.30
School Resource Account	
Dedicated Penalties (Fire Prevention)	
POAA	
Cop Card Donation	
Police Treasury	998.30
Police Justice	13,782.22
Flexible Spending	
Trust Account	
Developers CONNECT ON	24,923.18
Developers B of America	<u>1,316.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 16,776,984.50</b>

**CA-2 Authorizing the Appointment of Rebecca Adamski as an Unpaid Intern in the Health Department Retroactively to February 8, 2021**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN UNPAID INTERN IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, at certain times of the year, an intern position exist with our Health Department, and the Mayor and Council have determined that the position should be filled,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the following individual be appointed as a Health Department Intern, of which said position is unpaid, and **commenced retroactively to February 8, 2021** and will continue through the Spring 2021 semester until 231 hours are fulfilled with our Health Department.

**1. Rebecca Adamski**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the above listed Health Department Intern will be training with our Health Department.

**CA-3 Authorizing the Hiring of Michael DeGidio, Fire Prevention Specialist, Effective February 22, 2021, Annual Salary \$51,127.50**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL-TIME POSITION AS FIRE PREVENTION SPECIALIST IN THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Sub-Code Official has requested the Mayor and Council to hire a Fire Prevention Specialist Fire Prevention Bureau, and the Mayor and Council have determined that the position should be filled,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that **Michael DeGidio** be hired with the Fire Prevention Bureau, to a full-time position as **Fire Prevention Specialist**, with an effective date of **February 22, 2021**, at an annual salary of **\$51,127.50** pursuant to the White Collar Contract; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these appointments are provisional pending certification from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

**CA-4 Authorizing the Tax Appeal Attorney to Execute all Documents Necessary to Finalize Tax Appeal Settlement Entitled "Efin Gilin v. Borough of Fort Lee"**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO FINALIZE SETTLEMENT OF TAX APPEAL ENTITLED "EFIN GILIN"**

**WHEREAS**, Efin Gilin is the owner and/or taxpayer of property located at Block 1353, Lot 7, also known as 1166 Briar Way, Fort Lee, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, taxpayer has filed a property tax appeal against the Borough of Fort Lee for the tax year 2018 in a matter entitled Gilin, Efin v. Borough of Fort Lee, presently pending in the Tax Court of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been recommended by the Tax Appeal Attorney, the Borough Appraiser and the Borough Assessor that the matters be settled at this time, and that such settlement is in the best interests of the Borough;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that the Tax Appeal Attorney be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary in order to finalize the settlement of the matter entitled Gilin, Efin v. Borough of Fort Lee, so that for the tax year 2018 the assessment of \$1,816,300.00 will be reduced to \$1,750,000 and for the tax year 2019 the assessment of \$1,816,300.00 will be reduced to \$1,750,000, resulting in a refund of \$3,083.61; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the governing body acknowledges the Tax Assessor's agreement set the 2020 assessment to a total of \$1,700,000; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the aforesaid settlement is predicated upon a waiver of any and all pre-judgment interest by the taxpayer, as long as payment is made within sixty (60) days of the issuance of a Tax Court Judgment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk shall keep a copy of this Resolution on file and available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

**CA-5 Authorizing the Renewal of Various Municipal Licenses for January 1, 2021**

**Through December 31, 2021 Licensing Period**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL  
OF VARIOUS MUNICIPAL LICENSES FOR THE  
JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021 LICENSING PERIOD**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee that the following municipal licenses are hereby renewed for the January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021 licensing year.

**CLOTHING BINS** - Chapter 189

**LIMOUSINES** - Chapter 372, Article II  
**White Lines Global Inc.**

**TAXI** - Chapter 372, Article I

**MOTELS/HOTELS** - Chapter 377

**SERVICE/GAS STATION** - Chapter 333

**USED CAR LOTS** - Chapter 289, Article III

**VENDING** - Chapter 190 (Washers, Dryers, Candy, Soda Machines)  
**Plaza Laundry LLC**

**THEATER** - Chapter 134

**CA-6 Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Boswell Engineering for Construction  
Administrative Services Regarding Project Known as Improvements to Inwood  
Terrace (Section 2), Not to Exceed \$16,800**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF  
A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the Borough of Fort Lee (“Borough”) to retain the services of a licensed engineer to provide construction administration services related to the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace (Section 2) in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$193,000 from the 2020 New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant Fund for the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace Park in the Borough and was awarded \$106,981.99 in November 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on prior occasion pursuant to duly adopted resolution, the Borough awarded a contract to Boswell Engineering for the provision of professional engineering services related to the preparation of construction plans, specifications and bid documents for the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace (Section 2); and

**WHEREAS**, said services are recognized as “professional services” as same shall be rendered by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, whose practice is regulated by law, and the performance of which services requires knowledge of an advance type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instruction and study, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is empowered by law to appoint and employ professionals, technical advisors and experts as the Borough may determine to be necessary for its efficient operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes to retain the services of Boswell Engineering to

perform such professional engineer services in accordance with its proposal, dated February 3, 2021, attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, Boswell Engineering possesses the requisite expertise and skilled personnel required to provide construction administration services related to the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace (Section 2) in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough are desirous of awarding a contract for professional engineering services to Boswell Engineering in accordance with the procedures mandated under the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. requires that the resolution awarding contracts for “professional services” without competitive bidding and the agreement between the parties must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution R-9, duly adopted by the Borough on January 7, 2021, Boswell Engineering was awarded a contract pursuant to a “fair and open” process in accordance with the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-To-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. to serve as Borough Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the professional engineering services for this phase of the project will be performed by Boswell Engineering at a cost not-to-exceed \$16,800, and the contract for such professional engineering services is awarded pursuant to a “fair and open” process in accordance with the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-To-Play Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available for this purpose, and

**WHEREAS**, the award of a contract for the provision of professional engineering services to perform construction administration services for the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace (Section 2) is in the best interests of the Borough and the implementation of this contract is necessary for the Borough’s continued efficient operation;

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

1. That Boswell Engineering shall be and is hereby appointed to provide professional engineering services in the form of construction administration services related to the performance of improvements to Inwood Terrace (Section 2), in accordance with its proposal, dated February 3, 2021, attached hereto and made a part hereof, for a cost not-to-exceed \$16,800, and the terms and provisions of the agreement by and between Boswell Engineering and the Borough for services as the Borough Engineer.

2. That upon 80% completion of the engineering work pursuant to this resolution, Boswell Engineering shall provide written notice to the Borough Clerk as to whether the services will be completed within the budget established for the services. If the services are expected to exceed the budget, Boswell Engineering shall submit a detailed cost overrun schedule for review and consideration by the Borough.

3. That Boswell Engineering is specifically placed on notice that it will be required to comply with the Affirmative Action regulations of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq.

4. That a notice of the contract award shall be published as may be required by law, and this resolution must be available for public inspection, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

5. That the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose.

6. That no further action of the Borough shall be required.

**CA-7 Authorizing the Award of a Contract to North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. for the Provision of Janitorial Maintenance Services to Various Borough Buildings, Not to Exceed \$168,000**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE AWARD AND EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH NORTH JERSEY FRIENDSHIP HOUSE, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the Borough of Fort Lee (“Borough”) to procure janitorial maintenance services at Borough Hall, the Police Department, the Youth Center, the Ambulance Building, the Parking Authority, the Building Department, and the Department of Recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. has submitted a proposal, dated January 29, 2021, a copy of which is attached hereto, setting forth the janitorial maintenance services to be provided and the compensation for the provision of the services, and has indicated that it will provide the services required as specified for the Borough at the rates and terms specified in the proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of janitorial maintenance services by the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. entail “the purchase of any goods or services by persons with disabilities employed by a sheltered workshop,” pursuant to and in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(n); and

**WHEREAS**, this contract may be awarded without competitive bidding as a recognized exception, pursuant to and in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that the resolution awarding a contract without competitive bidding and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the services to be provided by the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. for a term of one year is \$168,000.00, which amount exceeds the threshold of \$17,500 under the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-To-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, although the receipt of a proposal from the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. to provide janitorial maintenance services was pursuant to a non-fair and open process in accordance with the provisions of New Jersey Local Unit Pay-To-Play Law, the contract award is not subject to the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law as the North Jersey Friendship House does not constitute a “business entity” due to its status as a not-for-profit entity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough desire to award a contract to the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. for the provision of janitorial maintenance services in accordance with the procedures mandated under the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough has certified, in writing, that funds are available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the award and authorization to execute a contract for the provision of janitorial maintenance services is necessary for the continued efficient operation of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the award and authorization to execute a contract with the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. for the provision of janitorial maintenance services is in the best interests of the Borough and its citizens;

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

1. That Borough hereby awards a contract to the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. in the amount of \$168,000.00 for a term of one year for the provision of janitorial maintenance services at Borough Hall, the Police Department, the Youth Center, the Ambulance Building, the Parking Authority, the Building Department, and the Department of Recreation.

2. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a recognized exception because it entails “the purchase of any goods or services by persons with disabilities employed by a sheltered workshop,” pursuant to and in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(n).

3. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the North Jersey Friendship House, Inc. for the provision of janitorial maintenance services.

4. That the proposal, this Resolution and the contract for the provision of janitorial maintenance services shall be available for public inspection in the Borough Clerk’s Office.

5. That the Borough Clerk shall advertise the award of the contract in a newspaper as may be required by law.

6. That no further action of the Borough shall be required.

There being no discussion, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer. The Consent Agenda regarding CA-1 through CA-7 was approved on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**R-1 Authorizing 2020 Budget Appropriation Reserve Transfers**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

February 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting	
Resolution #	R-1
Carried: <u>X</u>	Defeated: ____ Tabled: ____
Approved on Consent Agenda: ____	

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the following 2020 budget appropriation reserve transfers are hereby made, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58, not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Governing Body concurring:

	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
Police S/W	59,000	
OEM S/W	7,000	
Gasoline O/E	72,000	
Special Events O/E	12,500	
Unemployment Comp.		4,000
Garbage O/E		38,000
OEM O/E		7,000
Water O/E		17,000
Street Lighting O/E		72,000

Electric O/E

12,500

**TOTAL:**

**\$150,500**

**\$150,500**

**R-2 Authorizing the Appointment of Brian M. Chewcaski of the Firm Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC as Borough Attorney for the Year 2021**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti		X	X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

February 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-2  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: ____ Tabled: ____  Approved on Consent Agenda: ____
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**RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRIAN CHEWCASKIE OF THE FIRM CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI, JACOBS, LLC AS BOROUGH ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2021**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Borough of Fort Lee to engage the professional services of an attorney for the year 2021 to serve as Borough Attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. exempts professional services from certain requirements of public bidding provided a notice of the appointment be printed in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq., commonly known as the “State Pay to Play” law, took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is empowered by law to appoint and employ professionals, technical advisors and experts as the Borough may determine to be necessary for its efficient operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has fully complied with the “fair and open” process set forth under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, Brian Chewcaskie and the firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC possess the requisite expertise and skilled personnel required to provide professional legal services required by the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**; the Borough’s Review Team has determined that **Brian Chewcaskie** and the firm of **Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs LLC** legal services will be the most advantageous to the Borough, all relevant factors considered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is desirous of awarding a contract for professional legal services to **Brian Chewcaskie** and the firm of **Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC** to serve as Borough Attorney, for the year **2021**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has received a Business Registration Certificate and Affirmative Action compliance statement from the firm prior to entering into a contract; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. requires that the resolution awarding contracts for “professional services” without competitive bidding and the agreement between the parties must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the award by the Borough of a contract to **Brian Chewcaskie** and the firm of **Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC** for the provision of professional legal services is in the best interests of the Borough and the implementation of this contract is necessary for the efficient operation of the Borough,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of the Borough of Fort Lee, that said attorney be and is hereby appointed as **Borough Attorney** for the year **2021** pursuant to a “fair and open” process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that compensation for said Borough Attorney for the year **2021** shall be claimed, approved and paid in the manner set forth in NJSA 40A:5-18, as per their proposal, and pursuant to an agreement to be entered into between the parties and that the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk shall cause a notice of the adoption of this resolution be printed in a qualified newspaper within ten (10) days after passage hereof.

**R-3 Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Cleary, Giacobbe , Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC for the Provision of Affordable Housing Attorney Legal Services**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti		X	X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

February 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-3  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: ____ Tabled: ____  Approved on Consent Agenda: ____
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO CLEARY, GIACOBBE, ALFIERI, JACOBS, LLC FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES (AFFORDABLE HOUSING ATTORNEY)**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the Borough of Fort Lee (“Borough”) to retain the services of licensed attorney to serve as the Borough’s affordable housing attorney and provide professional legal services to the Borough during 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, said services are recognized as “professional services” as same shall be rendered by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, whose practice is regulated by law, and the performance of which services requires knowledge of an advance type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instruction and study, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is empowered by law to appoint and employ professionals, technical advisors and experts as the Borough may determine to be necessary for its efficient operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough publicly issued a Request for Qualifications on October 2, 2020, soliciting qualification statements for the performance of professional legal services to the Borough during 2021, and received qualification statements on October 23, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., commonly known as the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law, took effect on January 1, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has fully complied with the “fair and open process” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has determined that the performance of professional legal services by Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC (“Cleary”) to serve as affordable housing attorney for the Borough during 2021 will be the most advantageous to the Borough, all relevant factors considered; and



**WHEREAS**, the professional legal services to be performed by “Cleary” are professional services and this contract is awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to and in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., but pursuant to a “fair and open process” in accordance with the procedures mandated under the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law; and

**WHEREAS**, “Cleary” possesses the requisite expertise and skilled personnel required to serve as affordable housing attorney and provide professional legal services required by the Borough during 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is desirous of awarding a contract for professional legal services to “Cleary” in accordance with the procedures mandated under the Local Public Contracts Law; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. requires that the resolution awarding contracts for “professional services” without competitive bidding and the agreement between the parties must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer has determined that funds are available for this purpose, certification attached to this resolution

**WHEREAS**, the award by the Borough of a contract to “Cleary” to serve as affordable housing attorney and provide professional legal services during 2021 is in the best interests of the Borough and is necessary for the efficient operation of the Borough;

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

1. That Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC shall be and is hereby appointed as affordable housing attorney to perform professional legal services on behalf of the Borough during 2021, in accordance with its qualifications statement, attached hereto and made a part hereof.
2. That “Cleary” is specifically placed on notice that it will be required to comply with the Affirmative Action regulations of P.L. 1975 c. 127.
3. That the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer has determined funds are available for this purpose.
4. That a notice of the contract award shall be published in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.
5. That the Mayor is authorized and directed to execute a contract with “Cleary” and, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(1), to cause this Resolution for the award of the contract to be filed and available for inspection at the offices of the Borough Clerk.
6. That no further action of the Borough shall be required.

**R-4 Authorizing a Title, Grade and Step Change for Denis Piano, Supervising Maintenance Repairer, From 16-G to 17-G, Effective February 22, 2021**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti					Recused	
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

February 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-4  Carried: <u> X </u> Defeated: <u>    </u> Tabled: <u>    </u>  Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>    </u>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING A TITLE, GRADE AND STEP CHANGE FOR MR. DENIS PIANO**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have authorized a title and grade change for Mr. Denis Piano as listed below; and

Dept.	Name	Current Title	Current Grade & Step	New Title	New Grade & Step
General Services	Piano, D.	Electrician	16 - G	Supervising Maintenance Repairer	17 - G

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the above listed change shall be effective on February 22, 2021.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment shall be provisional pending certification from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Councilman Sohmer-** He advised to take precaution with the weather and thanked all employees involved with the snow removal.

He mentioned the new post office looks beautiful and the sign went up on the structure, expecting a possible opening this March. The Parking Authority has also moved into the building located in the municipal lot.

**Councilman Yoon-** He mentioned the Barrymore Film Center and Museum is close to completion. John Barrymore’s birthday was this past Monday.

He congratulated all the winners and awardees on the annual short film festival as there were over 60 admissions with films being answered from 11 foreign countries and over 12 thousand views from 71 countries around the world on the website. This festival increased the membership by more than 70 members. To view the winners, visit Barrymorefilmcenter.com. There are still seats available for dedication.

He mentioned February is Black History Month and Fort Lee is proud to honor cinema pioneer Oscar Micheaux as he has directed many films in Fort Lee. He would like to petition to the state legislature to have Oscar Micheaux admitted to the State Hall of Fame.

**Councilman Suh-** He offered his condolences to the Surace family on the passing of Joe Surace. He mentioned Joe Surace served as a former Board of Education member and ran the Fort Lee Jr. Bridgemen football program for over 35 years.

**Mayor Sokolich-** He offered the entire Surace family his condolences on the passing of Joe Surace. Joe Surace represented the Fort Lee Junior Bridgemen football league and served on many boards and had an impact on many community aspects; he will be sorely missed. There will be a drive by at the field when he is laid to rest.

**Councilman Sargenti-** He offered his condolences to the Surace family on the passing of Joe Surace.

He gave a monthly report regarding the Fort Lee Volunteer Fire Department response activity for January as follows: Active Alarms 48, Structural Fires 5, Car Fires 3, Mutual Aid Response 1, Fire Department Emergencies 17, Gas Leaks 6, Minor Fires 3, Carbon Monoxide Alarms 2, Total Calls for the year, 85.

He thanked the DPW and all involved with the excellent job with snow removal. The second tier is ready to go out again this evening.

**Councilwoman Kasofsky-** She mentioned the library is open for door side pickup, all you need is a library card. The Libby Digital App and Hoopla app allows you to borrow books, movies, audio books. Some other programs available are Heritage Quest, NY Times, Jersey Clicks and Pronunciater serving as an interactive learning database for multiple languages.

She stated to continue to be safe and wear your mask.

**Councilman Cervieri-** He mentioned the library also serves to the residents of Englewood Cliffs.

He offered his condolences to the Surace family on the passing of Joe Surace. as well as the Ruiz family on the passing of Lydia Ruiz, Housing Authority.

He mentioned Lydia ran the Family Self Sufficiency Program, also known as FSS that is federally funded.

He stated the Parking Authority has moved into its new facility located in the Municipal lot. The Special Improvement District is almost fully moved into their beautifully new space.

He mentioned the new Post Office also located in the Municipal lot is almost complete as the finishing touches are being done. He thanked all involved with this process.

He thanked all the staff involved with the Senior Center Meals on Wheels and thanked Lee Cohen for 50 plus years of service to the Borough of Fort Lee.

**Mayor Sokolich-** Before we conclude tonight, I am going to ask a friend and Fort Lee family member to come forward and say a few words but first I would like to just speak about him. He is our Borough Attorney close to 20 years. I would guess and say that you could count on two hands the number of guys or gals that have had as long as a run in a municipality. Folks need to understand that the winds of politics are not always fair, and changes are made but the true test of how able, confident and effective someone is, is being able to survive an administration to administration. We have a judge like that, and we have a Borough Attorney like that. For almost 20 years Lee has guided us through untold numbers of legal quagmires, lawsuits and labor controversies. I am often heard to say that Fort Lee did if not a billion then just about a billion dollars in redevelopment in the last decade or decade in a half and Lee was with us every step of the way. With the thousand redevelopment agreements along the way and through Bridgegate Lee if you remember all of that, that little event that happened in this town in 2013. Lee is a Fort Lee guy which I think is most important, so we are going to ask Lee to say a few words. And just know Lee that you will be sorely missed. Now before you say a few words we do want to get you back with something more formal as it is just a weird time with the pandemic and with the snowstorm. We are hoping we can get some people back here and honor you the right way.

At this time in the meeting Mayor Sokolich along with the Council members presented Lee Cohen with a plaque naming a street after him, Cohen Court.

**Borough Attorney Lee Cohen-** This is a wonderful tribute thank you Mr. Mayor, you have taken up most of what I was going to say. It was very kind of you. First, to the Mayor, members of the Governing Body, to Al, to Evelyn, to Nadine I want to say thank you very much. By my estimate as the Mayor said I have been an attorney in one capacity or another for Fort Lee for 25 years. The last 17 years serving as Borough Attorney. I must tell you that I am honored and privileged to have been able to serve and the people who I have gotten to serve with have been my friends, my colleagues and sometimes my family for all purposes. I thank every one of them including members of the public and frankly it has been a rollicking good time. So, thank you very much for the privilege of serving and to my worthy successor, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Thank you.

**Mayor Sokolich-** Not to get the last word in but I think of the transition that this country just went through and the chaos, on behalf of the community and advisory we want to thank you for what was a seamless transition and what was a professional transition.

With the way you conduct yourself we expected nothing less. And I do not mean to sound presumptuous, I think you know what I mean. You are the quintessential professional and gentleman.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened to the public for discussion.

There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti.**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sargenti, and there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with no objections at 7:26 p.m.

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Evelyn Rosario, RMC  
Municipal Clerk