

REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Thursday, March 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.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Sargenti

ALSO PRESENT: Al Restaino, Borough Administrator
Evelyn Rosario, Borough Clerk
Brian Chewcaskie, 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

Council President Cervieri presided over the meeting until Mayor Sokolich's arrival.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Councilman Sohmer, seconded by Councilman Suh, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Reorganization Meeting were approved.

On motion by Councilman Sohmer, seconded by Councilman Suh, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the January 21, 2021 Regular Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the February 4, 2021 Work Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the February 18, 2021 Regular Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Work Session were approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE # 2021-6 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING

CHAPTER 358 ENTITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT " OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE " (Public hearing April 15, 2021)

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky , and carried, Ord. #2021-6 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 358 ENTITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE" (Public Hearing April 15, 2021) was introduced and passed on first reading.

The Ordinance was **approved** on the following roll call, and the public hearing relative to this ordinance was scheduled for **April 15, 2021**.

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 0219-33-036-013

Councilman Suh made a motion to open the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky .

There being no public comments, the public hearing relative to the "Person-To-Person Transfer of Liquor License No. 0219-33-036-013 " was closed on motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilman Sohmer.

A resolution authorizing the transfer will be acted upon this evening

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

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

March 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # CA-1 to CA-11 Carried: ___ Defeated: ___ Tabled: ___ Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>X</u>

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.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Current	\$9,217,936.21
Current - Grant	
Capital	624,543.91
Road Improvement Plan	
Multiple Dwelling	
Construction Fees	
COAH Fees	
Senior Citizen Advisory Council	
Trip Admissions	
Special Dog Account	
Trust Account Fund	
Disability Insurance Trust	
Public Assistance Trust Fund	

Police Activity Trust	
Fort Lee Film Commission	
Community Development	
Redemption Account	353,593.68
School Resource Account	
Dedicated Penalties (Fire Prevention)	
POAA	
Cop Card Donation	
Police Treasury	910.00
Police Justice	
Flexible Spending	
Trust Account	
Developers CONNECT ON	26,810.58
Developers B of America	<u>2,964.32</u>
Total:	\$ 10,226,758.70

CA-2 Approving Full Membership Firefighter Applications for Ashley DeGidio, Fire Company #1 and Jonathan Arias, Fire Company #3

The Firefighter Full Membership Applications for Ashley DeGidio, Fire Co. 1 and Jonathan Arias, Fire Co. 3 were approved.

CA-3 Accepting Retirement Notice of Steve Negri, Building Inspector of the Building Department, Effective July 1, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT NOTICE OF STEVE NEGRI

BE IT RESOLVED that **Steve Negri, Building Inspector** of the **Building Department**, has submitted his retirement notice dated March 1, 2021 and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Negri’s retirement will be **effective July 1, 2021** with the Borough of Fort Lee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Mr. Negri.

CA-4 Accepting Retirement Notice of Municipal Judge John R. DeSheplo , Effective March 1, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE JOHN R. DESHEPLO

BE IT RESOLVED that **John R. DeSheplo , Municipal Judge**, of the **Municipal Court**, has submitted his retirement notice dated February 3, 2021 and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Judge DeSheplo’s retirement will be **effective March 1, 2021** with the Borough of Fort Lee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Judge DeSheplo.

CA-5 Accepting Resignation Notice of Allison Saperstein, Keyboarding Clerk 1 of the Municipal Court, Effective February 25, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION NOTICE OF ALLISON SAPERSTEIN

BE IT RESOLVED that **Allison Saperstein, Keyboarding Clerk 1** of the

Municipal Court , has submitted her resignation notice dated February 5, 2021 and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Ms. Saperstein’s resignation will be **effective February 25, 2021** with the Borough of Fort Lee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Ms. Saperstein.

CA-6 Authorizing the Hiring of Various Spring Seasonal Employees in the Community Center and Recreation Department Effective Spring 2021 through June 18 - 20, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SPRING SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee have authorized the hiring of spring seasonal employees; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the below listed individuals will be hired as spring seasonal employees in the Department listed, with an effective date provided by the Department Head to our Payroll Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said individuals be paid at an hourly rate as stipulated below, **effective Spring 2021 through June 20, 2021 for the Recreation Department and Spring 2021 through June 18, 2021 for Community Center** ;

NAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	HOURLY RATE:
Asharian, Laudan	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Ashman, Christopher	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Berlingo, Joseph	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
DeGidio, Ashley	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Gulsen, Berkan	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Khatchadourian, Natalie	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Kellas, Kim	Crafts Instructor	Recreation Dept.	\$20.00
Kellas, Kim	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Lu, Larry	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Pappas, Constantina	Crafts Instructor	Recreation Dept.	\$20.00
Pappas, Constantina	Officer Worker/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Rosa, Shaina	Recreation/Tennis Attendant	Recreation Dept.	\$15.00
Ashman, Christopher	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.00
Diaz, Paris	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.00
Jaikissoon, Eric	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.00
Nannas, Dimitri	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.00
Puma, Joseph	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.00

CA-7 Authorizing the Hiring of Maria Bradley as a Part-Time Temporary Fire Prevention Inspector, Effective March 22, 2021, \$24.05 Hourly

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A PART-TIME TEMPORARY FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR

WHEREAS, the Fire Sub-Code Official has requested the Mayor and Council to appoint a part-time temporary position within the Fire Prevention Bureau and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the following individual be appointed to the temporary position of Fire Prevention Inspector:

Maria Bradley

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his hourly rate shall be \$ 24.05, with an effective date of March 22, 2021.

CA-8 Endorsing a 2021 Community Development Block Covid-19 Round II Grant Application for the Installation of Covid-19 Protective Systems at the Richard and Catherine Nest Senior Activity Center

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ENDORSING A 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK COVID-19 ROUND II GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COVID-19 PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS AT THE RICHARD AND CATHERINE NEST SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

WHEREAS, a 2021 Bergen County Community Development COVID-19 Round II grant of \$ 21,300 has been proposed by the Borough of Fort Lee for the installation of an HVAC system, Ultra Violet Lights and an Ionic System at the Richard and Catherine Nest Senior Activity Center which will improve protection against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development COVID-19 Round II funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of the Borough of Fort Lee; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite approval of the aforesaid CDBG funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program so that approval implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor Mark J. Sokolich is hereby authorized to execute a grant agreement and documents for acceptance of funds.

CA-9 Authorizing the Renewal of Membership in the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

WHEREAS, a number of public entities in the State of New Jersey have joined together to form the **Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund**, hereafter referred to as "FUND", as permitted by N.J.S.A. 11:15-3, 17:1-8.1, and 40A:10-36 et seq., and;

WHEREAS, the FUND was approved to become operational by the Departments of Insurance and Community Affairs and has been operational since that date, and;

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations governing the creation and operation of a joint insurance fund, contain certain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a FUND;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Fort Lee, hereinafter referred to as "LOCAL UNIT" has determined that membership in the FUND is in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT hereby agrees as follows:

- R.** Become a member of the FUND for the period outlined in the LOCAL UNIT's Indemnity and Trust Agreements.
- ii. Will participate in the following type (s) of coverage (s):
 - R.)** Health, Dental or Prescription Insurance as defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17B:17-4, the FUND's Bylaws, and Plan of Risk Management.
- iii. Adopts and approves the FUND's Bylaws.
- iv. Execute an application for membership and any accompanying certifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the LOCAL UNIT is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the FUND as required by the FUND's Bylaws, and to deliver these documents to the FUND's Executive Director with the express reservation that these documents shall become effective only upon:

- R.** Approval of the LOCAL UNIT by the FUND.
- ii. Receipt from the LOCAL UNIT of a Resolution accepting assessment.
- iii. Approval by the New Jersey Department of Insurance and Department of Community Affairs.

CA-10 Authorizing the Transfer of Police Dog Ajax to his Handler, Police Officer John Reuter

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF POLICE DOG AJAX TO HIS HANDLER, POLICE OFFICER JOHN REUTER

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Police Department is the owner of a dog which it wishes to donate to a private individual due to its age and medical condition; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Fort Lee is the provider of insurance and the insurer of the Fort Lee Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Police Department and the Borough of Fort Lee wish to enter into an agreement for the transfer of this animal, named **Ajax**, sex **Male**, breed **German Shepherd** to **Police Officer John Reuter**, the dog's handler for the sum of \$1.00 and other good consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Fort Lee approve said transfer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the attached Hold Harmless Agreement between the Borough of Fort Lee and Police Officer Reuter.

CA-11 Authorizing the Renewal of a Used Car Lot Municipal License to SK Motors, Inc., 2143 Route 4 East for the 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

TAXI - Chapter 372, Article I

MOTELS/HOTELS - Chapter 377

SERVICE/GAS STATION - Chapter 333

USED CAR LOTS - Chapter 289, Article III

SK Motors Inc.

VENDING - Chapter 190 (Washers, Dryers, Candy, Soda Machines)

THEATER - Chapter 134

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

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 Designating 47th Street Group, LLC as Redevelopers and Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with 47th Street Group, LLC, for Property Known as Tax Block 2752, Lot 19 Located in Redevelopment Area 10

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

March 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # R-1 Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: ____ Tabled: ____ Approved on Consent Agenda: ____
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RESOLUTION DESIGNATING 47TH STREET GROUP, LLC AS REDEVELOPER AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH 47TH STREET GROUP, LLC, FOR PROPERTY KNOWN AS TAX BLOCK 2752, LOT 19 LOCATED IN REDEVELOPMENT AREA 10

WHEREAS, pursuant to the “Local Redevelopment and Housing Law,” P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et seq.), the Fort Lee Borough Council (“Borough Council”), by a Resolution adopted on January 17, 2019, determined Block 2752, Lot 19 (the “Property”) as an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 and 6 (“Redevelopment Area 10”); and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of redeveloping Redevelopment Area 10, on October 10, 2019, the Borough Council adopted an ordinance approving a redevelopment plan

for Redevelopment Area 10, dated July 2019 prepared by Phillips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes LLC; and

WHEREAS, 47th Street Group LLC (the “Redeveloper”) is the owner of the Property; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2020 the Borough Planning Board granted the Redeveloper preliminary and final major site plan approval for the Property so as to permit the construction of a 5-story, 30-unit multi-family development consisting of five (5) one-bedroom units and twenty-five (25) two-bedroom units and sixty-two (62) parking space in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Redeveloper or its affiliates have successfully undertaken development projects throughout New Jersey, including in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough believes that the redevelopment of the Property in the manner proposed by the Redeveloper is in the vital and best interests of the community and promotes the health, safety, morals and welfare of the Borough’s residents and is in accord with the public purpose and provisions of the Redevelopment Law and all other Applicable Laws; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that it is in the best interest of the community for it to enter into a redevelopment agreement with the Redeveloper for the purposes of facilitating the redevelopment of the Property and to specify each parties’ respective rights and obligations for the effectuation of the goals and objectives of redevelopment of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Redeveloper have agreed to the terms and conditions with respect to the redevelopment of the Property, the construction of the improvements and the payment of certain costs in connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that it hereby approves and authorizes the execution of a redevelopment agreement with 47th Street Group, LLC, 120 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 300, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 as redeveloper for the redevelopment of Block 2752, Lot 19 located in Redevelopment Area 10.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents, including the redevelopment agreement substantially consistent with the form of agreement attached hereto, to effectuate the completion and implementation of this project, subject to final review by Borough counsel as to legal form and content.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

R-2 Authorizing the Transfer of Person-to-Person Liquor License No. 0219-33-036-013 from iPic-Gold Class Entertainment, LLC to iPic Theaters, LLC, Effective March 19, 2021

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

March 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # R-2 Carried: <u> X </u> Defeated: <u> </u> Tabled: <u> </u> Approved on Consent Agenda: <u> </u>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF PERSON-TO-PERSON LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 0219-33-036-013 FROM IPIC-GOLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC DEBTOR IN POSSESSION TO IPIC THEATERS, LLC, EFFECTIVE MARCH 19, 2021

WHEREAS , an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License Number 0219-33-036-013, heretofore issued to iPic-Gold Class Entertainment, LLC, Debtor In Possession; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the license business.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Fort Lee Governing Body does hereby approve, effective March 19, 2021 the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to iPic Theaters, LLC and does hereby direct the Municipal Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to iPic Theaters, LLC, effective March 19, 2021."

R-3 Authorizing the Hiring of Linda McCue, As a Full-Time Media Technician I, Effective March 22, 2021, \$84,500.00 Annual Salary

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

March 18, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # R-3 Carried: <u> X </u> Defeated: <u> </u> Tabled: <u> </u> Approved on Consent Agenda: <u> </u>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF LINDA MCCUE AS A MEDIA TECHNICIAN I

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee have authorized the hiring of an employee to meet our video and social media needs, under the supervision of the Borough Administrator; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , that **Ms. Linda McCue** be appointed to the full-time position of **Media Technician I** , which will fall under the White Collar Salary Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ms. McCue be appointed at an annual salary of **\$84,500.00, with an effective date of March 22, 2021** .

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Sohmer - He congratulated K-9 Ajax on his retirement. He also congratulated Police Chief Matt Hintze on the achievement of Police Agency accreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

He mentioned Fort Lee was ranked by NICHE.com as 25th in the state as best places to live.

He offered his condolences to the Shelly family on the passing of Jeff Shelly from Time Warner Cable.

He gave a monthly report regarding the Fort Lee Voluntary Fire Department for response activity for February as follows: Active Alarms 56, Structural Fires 2, Mutual Aid 1, Fire Department Emergencies 25, Gas Leaks 11, Carbon Monoxide Alarms 5, Total calls for the year 215. Please contact the Fire Chief if you would like to volunteer.

He reminded everyone to practice social distancing and to stay safe.

Councilman Yoon - He congratulated the School Board members on the January 2021 School Board Recognition Month.

He mentioned Tom Meyers and the Film Committee have converted the 1909 film ‘Court of Life’ into a DVD. The new documentary on John Barrymore will be screened at the opening of the Barrymore Film Center and Museum. They will be moving into the new office space this spring.

Councilman Suh - He congratulated the School Board members on the January 2021 School Board Recognition Month.

He mentioned as of March 22, 2021 students will be returning in person 5 days a week. He spoke with health Officer Jill Scarpa on getting the teachers vaccinated as they all return.

He thanked Judge DeSheplo for serving the town of Fort Lee and congratulated him on his retirement. He also congratulated Building Inspector Steven Negri and K-9 Ajax on their retirement.

Councilwoman Kasofsky - She congratulated the School Board members on the January 2021 School Board Recognition Month.

She thanked Judge DeSheplo for serving the town of Fort Lee and congratulated him on his retirement.

She mentioned the library kept her very busy as they have so much to offer including Hoopla, Libby app, motor vehicle tests, ESL programs, spring virtual senior citizen classes and yoga. Screening of “Old Voices” will be held on March 23 at 7PM.

Councilman Cervieri - He mentioned it has been an honor to have been sworn in as Councilman by Judge DeSheplo 8 times and he will be sorely missed. He also congratulated K-9 Ajax on his retirement and Building Inspector Steven Negri on his commitment to the ADA committee and retirement.

He mentioned the Senior Citizen Center provided many services during the pandemic including meals on wheels, a call center program to check on seniors and friends, food pantry set up, cooking and packing meals every Tuesday and Thursday, shopping for seniors as well as outdoor exercise activities in Constitution Park. The vaccine registration call center was also staged at the Senior Center.

He congratulated the School Board members on the January 2021 School Board Recognition Month.

At this point in the meeting Council President Cervieri requested a brief recess.

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, a brief recess was approved and taken at 7:47 P.M.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Sokolich was present and requested to reconvene the meeting.

On motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, the meeting was reconvened at 7:49 P.M

PROCLAMATION

“January 2021 as School Board Recognition Month”

The following Proclamation was read by Mayor Sokolich. He invited the Board of Education Members present to the dais to join in the reading of the Proclamation.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Fort Lee's public schools serve over 4,000 children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, board of education members in Fort Lee devote countless hours, without remuneration, to the oversight of school district operations, including finances, policy, curriculum and staffing; and

WHEREAS, members of the Fort Lee Board of Education endeavor to meet the challenges facing public schools and help students attain the education necessary for postsecondary success so they may compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education has contributed to New Jersey being among the leading states in academic achievement, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress and by district participation and student achievement in the Advanced Placement and SAT assessments; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; and

WHEREAS, by making meaningful contributions to public education, the dedicated members of the Fort Lee Board of Education have greatly enhanced the quality of life in our State and Borough through their actions and decisions on behalf of our students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark J. Sokolich, Mayor of the Borough of Fort Lee, do hereby recognize:

**JANUARY 2021
AS
SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

Dated this 18th day of March 2021

Also Present: Board of Education Members Paula Colbath, Kristen Richter, Michael Rubino, Esther Han Silver, Holly Morell and Lauran Tuck

Councilman Suh presented the members with a plaque. Board of Education President Paula Colblath and Liaison Michael Rubino thanked the Mayor and Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Suh, 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 Councilwoman Kasofsky** .

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with no objections at 7:59 PM.

Evelyn Rosario, RMC
Municipal Clerk