

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 7 , 2021, at 6:30 P.M.**

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee was held on the above date in the 2nd Floor Conference Room and the Council Chambers Room, Memorial Municipal Building, 309 Main Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

PRESENT: Mayor Sokolich, Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

ABSENT: Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney

ALSO PRESENT : Alfred Restaino, Borough Administrator
Evelyn Rosario, Borough Clerk
Nadine Drumgoole, Deputy Borough Clerk
Daniel Lagana, 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 Borough website.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS:

On motion by Councilman Cervieri , seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky and approved **unanimously** , the meeting moved into closed session.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that:

This body shall hereafter discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act, certain items which may generally be described as follows:

1. **Personnel:**
 - a. Administration
 - b. Ambulance
 - c. Building Department
 - d. Police Department
 - e. Recreation Center

2. **Legal:**
 - a. 505 North Avenue
 - b. TDC Certificate of Completion

The minutes of the discussion in closed session may be disclosed to the public when the Mayor and Council has determined that the need for confidentiality has been satisfied.

The open portion of the work session will resume upon completion of the closed portion.

The closed portion of the meeting ended at 7:12 P.M. The open portion of the work session began at 7:12 P.M.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Authorize the Award of a Contract to Harley Davidson of Bergen Co., Inc. for the Purchase of Six (6) Harley Davidson Electra Glide Motorcycles for the Police Department

Councilman Cervieri questioned Harley Davidson of Bergen Co., Inc. not being on the state list. Administrator Restaino stated they were the only responders to the bid request.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the October 21st proposed consent agenda.

Authorize the Cancellation of Various Grants Receivable and Appropriated Reserves

Administrator Restaino stated the Chief Financial Officer has requested approval for the above captioned cancellation of various grants receivable and appropriated reserves.

A resolution authorizing the above captioned will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda.

Authorize Chapter 159 's:

- a. State of New Jersey - Clean Communities**
- b. American Rescue Plan - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund**

A resolution authorizing the above captioned insertion of budget items will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda.

Revised Corrective Action Plan for the Year Ended December 31, 2020

An audit was performed by Steven Wielkotz, Borough Auditor. The Governing Body reviewed the revised Correction Action Plan as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and has accepted same indicating to include the federal award audit recommendation.

A resolution authorizing the above captioned will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda.

Authorize the Issuance a New Limousine Business License to B2B Worldwide, Inc.

Borough Clerk Rosario stated that the applicant has met all the requirements for the issuance of the above captioned limousine license.

It was the Consensus of the Governing Body to authorize the issuance of the new limousine license. A resolution authorizing the above captioned will be placed on the October 21st proposed consent agenda.

Authorize Handicap Parking Requests:

a. 1361 15th Street

b. 2158 Mackay Avenue

An ordinance amending the Borough's handicap ordinance to add two new streets as indicated above will be placed on the October 21st meeting agenda for introduction.

2021 Municipal Best Practices Inventory

Administrator Restaino reviewed the 2021 Municipal Best Practices Inventory as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and has accepted same.

Parking Authority Fees and Fines

Administrator Restaino received a request from the Executive Director of the Parking Authority Gloria Gallo to begin discussions related to parking meter fees and fines.

The Governing Body held a brief discussion related to this request and has asked that the Parking Authority obtain comparable rates from surrounding municipalities and report back.

Administrator Restaino will communicate with Ms. Gallo, Executive Director of the Parking Authority and request an analysis.

Parking Authority Amend Chapter 388-55 XI Loading Zones to Add 1579 Palisade Avenue

An ordinance amending Chapter 388, Article XI Loading Zones to include 1579 Palisade Avenue will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda for introduction.

Parking Authority Amend Chapter 289-15 Parking Meter Zones Add Pay by Cell Only at Lewis Street on the North Side

An ordinance amending Chapter 289, Article 15, Parking Meter Zones Add Pay by Cell Only to include Lewis Street on the North Side will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda for introduction.

ADD ON:

Parking Authority Amend Chapter 388-6 Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours on Certain Streets Schedule II

An ordinance amending Chapter 388 Article 6, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours on Certain Streets Schedule II to include Hudson Terrace between Washington Avenue and Myrtle Avenue will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda for introduction.

Authorize a Revised Shared Service Agreement with the Board of Education for the Purchase of Gasoline/Diesel Fuel for the Board of Education

Administrator Restaino reviewed the revised shared service agreement between the Fort Lee Board of Education and the Borough for the purchase of gasoline/diesel fuel for the Board of Education vehicles.

A resolution authorizing the agreement will be acted upon this evening.

Authorize the Award of a Contract to Boswell Engineering for the Preparation of Construction Plans and Specifications for the milling and resurfacing of Bluff Road not to Exceed \$21,500.00

Administrator Restaino reviewed the proposal submitted by Boswell Engineering regarding the above captioned project.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the October 21st proposed consent agenda.

Authorize the Award of a Contract to Remington & Vernick Engineers for Professional Engineering Services for the Proposed Abbott Boulevard Walking/Jogging Path Between Columbia Avenue and Riverdale Road, Not to Exceed \$10,500 and Not to Exceed with Alternate Fee \$44,600.00

Administrator Restaino reviewed the proposal as submitted by Remington & Vernick Engineers regarding the above captioned project.

An authorizing resolution will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda.

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to Obtain Bid Specifications and Advertise for Bids for Project Known as Improvements to Bluff Road

A resolution authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for project known as Improvements to Bluff Road will be placed on the October 21st regular session agenda.

Fort Lee Pistol Range

Mayor Sokolich stated the pistol range has been updated, officers should certify themselves within the community. The Governing Body requested that Chief Hintze provide a schedule of times and hours the range would be used. Upon review, same will be provided to the Plaza Management located at 1500 Palisade Avenue.

Administrator Restaino will communicate with Chief Hintze and request said information.

Barrymore Film Center Production TV Studio Presentation

Linda McCue and Sam Ghali came forward to present and discuss ideas regarding the Barrymore Film Center & Museum Production TV Studio.

A brief overview of the studio was presented and distributed to the Governing Body. Ms. McCue and Mr. Ghali spoke of the potential set they are seeking to design for the purposes of providing special production programming sessions.

It was the consensus of the Governing Body to move forward with the TV Studio Production.

Director of the Department of Public Works Discussion Regarding Sewers and Check Valves

The Director of the Department of Public Works Michael Maresca was present to discuss potential ordinance modifications relating to the construction of new homes. These changes would help alleviate some of the damaging effects of flooding. More specifically he spoke of eliminating down sloping driveways and the installation of sewer check valves.

Administrator Restaino will schedule a meeting with himself, Michael Maresca and the Borough Planner to discuss further.

Authorizing Verizon Wireless to Place 19 Small Wireless Facilities on Existing Poles at Various Locations

Mr. Peter Lupo of Hoplite Communications came forward and first thanked the Governing Body for their approval of his request to locate a drop box at the Sr Center, which will be used to collect items to assist Afghan refugees .

He explained the request for the installation of 19 small wireless facilities will create a 5G network (Current 4G network) and that these wireless facilities will be installed on existing AT&T utility poles, thus eliminating the need for the installation of new poles.

Council President Cervieri expressed his concerns regarding Verizon Wireless having many dead zones in Fort Lee, specifically around the Kensington Park area. Mr. Lupo indicated that there could be several reasons for the lack of service but that he would confer with Verizon representatives to see if a solution can be found.

Administrator Restaino stated he will forward a past Radio Frequency Report, completed by Mr. William Share to Mr. Lupo to see if would assist with Mr. Lupo's efforts.

A resolution authorizing the placement for the installation of 19 small cell wireless facilities at various locations in the Borough will be placed on the October 21st proposed consent agenda.

ADD ON

Marriage License Report

A resolution authorizing marriage license payment fees to the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$2,025.00 will be placed on the October 21st proposed consent agenda.

RESOLUTION

R-1 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE/DIESEL FUEL FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION VEHICLES

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

October 7, 2021
Work Session Meeting

Resolution# R-1

Carried: X Defeated: Tabled:

Approved on Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE/DIESEL FUEL FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Fort Lee (“Borough”) is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey in the County of Bergen, established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:60-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Lee Board of Education (“Board”) in the County of Bergen, was established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:10-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Board desire to provide for a sharing of various municipal services through the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., that will result in efficiencies for the benefits of the citizens of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough purchases gasoline/diesel fuel through the registered Pricing System Co-op with Bergen County, and the current vender is Rachles/Micheles Oil Co. Inc., pursuant to an agreement that expires December 31, 2023 with a 12 month renewal option; and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to supply gasoline/diesel fuel for use by the Board based upon usage and current per gallon pricing, in exchange for the Board sharing the cost of new gas pumps and associated piping and equipment that are in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the entry into a shared services agreement with the Board for the provision of gasoline/diesel fuel by Board vehicles in exchange for the Board sharing the cost of new gas pumps and associated piping and equipment that are in need of replacement will result in cost savings to both the Borough and the Board; and

WHEREAS, the shared services agreement will have a term of one (1) year, and may be extended for additional one (1) year terms at the mutual option of both the Borough and the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to enter into the shared services agreement for the shared use of gasoline/diesel fuel purchased by the Borough through the registered Pricing System Co-op with Bergen County, in exchange for the Board sharing the cost of new gas pumps and associated piping and equipment that are in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the entry into the shared services agreement with the Board complies with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act and is in the best interests of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall supersede any prior passed resolutions related to a shared service between the Borough of Fort Lee and Board of Education for the purchase of gasoline/diesel fuel for the Board of Education vehicles;

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 entry into the shared services agreement with the Board is pursuant to and in accordance with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., and is hereby authorized.

2. That the Mayor shall be and is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Borough and the Board, memorializing the terms and conditions for the shared use of gasoline/diesel fuel purchased by the Borough through the registered Pricing System Co-op with Bergen County, in exchange for the Board sharing the cost of new gas pumps and associated piping and equipment that are in need of replacement.

3. That upon execution of the shared services agreement, this resolution and the agreement between the parties shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

1. June Ruggiero came forward to discuss her concerns with the proposed project known as Palisades Interstate Park. A handout was provided by Ms. Ruggiero. Her concerns will be further discussed at a future town hall.
2. Michael came forward to discuss his concerns with the proposed project known as Palisades Interstate Park and the architectural process.
3. Resident name not given. Expressed her concern to have the Engineers work with the community. She also expressed her concerns of the garbage on Hoyt Street. Mayor Sokolich replied he will have the Borough tend to the area immediately.
4. Lori Perucci Knightsbridge resident came forward and stated there were items of value able to have been reserved that no one advocated to help retrieve. Mayor Sokolich stated he was unauthorized to enter the premises by property management, two insurance companies and a demolition company. A discussion will be held with Fire Official Steve Curry to try and obtain a lead for permission to enter.
5. June Ruggiero stated she has safety concerns with the emergency lights in Central Court Condos.

There being no further discussions the meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Kasofsky, at 8:40 PM

Prepared by:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Nadine Drumgoole, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Evelyn Rosario, RMC
Municipal Clerk