

# **Borough of Tenafly**

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Zinna and Councilmembers Jeffrey Grossman, Lauren Dayton Venugopal Menon, Adam Michaels, Julie O' Connor and Daniel Park

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Borough Administrator Jimmy Homsi  
Borough Clerk Omar Stovall  
Human Resources Manager Alisha Dawkins  
Borough Attorney Wendy Rubinstein

At 9:29 p.m. Mayor Zinna read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, P.L. 1975, chapter 231, THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED. THE MEETING DATES FOR THE YEAR ARE CONFIRMED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ARE POSTED ON THE PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARD IN THE LOBBY OF THE MUNICIPAL CENTER, AND PUBLISHED IN THE RECORD WITHIN THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF THE NEW YEAR."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Zinna

Minutes to be approved: May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting  
June 28, 2022 Regular Meeting  
October 6, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion by C. O'Connor, second by C. Dayton and all other members voting in favor of the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting be approved.

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. O' Connor and all other members voting in favor of the June 28, 2022 Regular Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting be approved.

C. Dayton advised that in the minutes is not reflected in the attendance. M. Zinna offered to motion the minutes provided that C. Dayton is reflected in the attendance.

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Dayton and all other members voting in favor of the October 6, 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Regular Meeting be approved.

#### **REVISIONS TO AGENDA:**

Ms. Rubinstein advised that that there are no revision on the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

J. Thompson – 41 Lawrence Parkway – expressed that the math does not make sense for proceed with the PSEG resolution. Expressed that it makes no sense to because on the PSEG site a link provided information that could save up to 30% in savings. He added that the high is \$9,000 but \$2,700 is close to \$3,000 savings except that there is \$4,300 fee that has to be paid. Mr. Thompson continued that if \$4,300 has to be paid then the bill is being increased by that amount only reducing by \$2,600 on the highest month. He expressed that he is struggling with the numbers. Mr. Thompson expressed that during the talk about the library for the last three meetings there were discussion about constructing a second story on the library but at a minimum a rehab and a tear down. He asked why put in new fixtures in to only demolish and to install HVAC boilers in spite of future plans. He added that he see no savings and did not understand the logic.

P. Rustin- 295 Woodland Street – Mr. Rustin expressed that he has a letter from the President of the NJ Council of Mayors that was sent to the Governor asking municipalities to send a duplicate letter to the Governor concerning the increase in health insurance. Mayor Rustin was embarrassed by the condition of the dog park. Mr. Rustin urged that dog park be handled by a volunteer group.

C. Evron – 39 Leroy Street – asked if the portal is offered on the League of Municipalities.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- #R22-345/Approve Expenditures as of October 13, 2022
- #R22-346/Authorize Installation and Repayment Agreement with PSE&G
- #R22-347/Authorize Tree Mitigation Escrow Refund – 89 Depeyster Avenue
- #R22-348/Approve Davis-Johnson Park and Garden Refund – Salvatore
- #R22-349/Authorize Refunds – Recreation Trust
- #R22-350/Authorize Additional Professional Engineering Services – Storm Sewer Outfall and Detention Basin Inspections
- #R22-351/Approve Raffle Application RA 1262
- #R22-352/Reject Bid and Authorize Negotiation of a Contract – Railroad Station Electrical Upgrades Project
- #R22-353/Authorize Purchase of 4-Wheel Drive Command Utility Vehicle – Fire Department
- #R22-354/Authorize Purchase of 4-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle – Fire Department
- #R22-355/Authorize Refund – Tax Court Judgment – Block 2902 Lot 3 – Jacobus

Motion by C. Dayton second by C. Park that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O’Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. ORDINANCES:**

The following ordinances published herewith was first read by title only on October 6, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board of the lobby of the municipal center.

The Borough Clerk read into the record:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-20 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE 22-12 TO FIX THE SALARY, WAGE, OR COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS, AND PART TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF TENAFLY IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023

Public Comments on Ordinance No. 22-20  
None.

Motion by C. O’ Connor by C. Dayton that Ordinance 22-20 be passed on second and final reading and is hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

On a roll call, the vote on Ordinance No. 22-20 was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	abstain
C. Grossman:	nay	C. O’Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

### **Committee Reports**

C. Park no report.

C. Grossman no report.

C. Dayton reported that the Senior Center is having a pancake breakfast. C. Dayton announced that the Tenafly Nature Center presented its new board members where Peter Emmi would remain as president. She added that the Tenafly Nature Center is has a legacy bench program.

C. Menon reported that the Board of Adjustment had two applications one where the side yard had a variance of 8 feet. He added that a flagpole extended on the property. It was not seen as a hardship and was approved. The second application applied for a variance. C. Menon announced that the Senior Center is having upcoming activities and a trip to Connecticut.

C. Michaels no report.

C. O’Connor expressed that the Environmental Commission discussed the deficit of trees and where could trees be replaced. She wanted to make the Governing Body aware of this ongoing project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Rubinstein expressed that \$90,000 was appropriated from the American Recuse Plan (ARP) funds. She added that the Borough received four responses to the Engineering Consultant bid. She added that more appropriate number is \$150,000 opposed to \$90,000 in order to consider the range of bids received. C. O’ Connor asked who is on the Evaluation Committee. Ms. Rubinstein expressed two members of the public, the Borough Attorney, the Borough Administrator, and C. Michaels. Ms. Rubinstein expressed that this is going under competitive contracting. C. Grossman asked where is \$60,000. Ms. Rubinstein responded that in Ordinance Number 22-03 to allow certain monies allocated and \$60,000 of the funds could be utilized towards the Engineering Consultant. C. Grossman asked if we have the option to reject the bids. Ms. Rubinstein expressed that the Borough reserves the right to reject the bids. Ms. Rubinstein added cannot award contract

if not enough funds are available. C. Grossman asked this would be full-blown engineering. Ms. Rubinstein expressed that plans will be conceptual level plans. C. Grossman followed up by asking if additional engineering is needed. C. Michaels expressed that it is enough engineering to find what out true cost.

C. Dayton expressed that expressed that this a great combination of savings for seven concepts with one firm. C. Menon believed that this benefits the downtown more than other resident needs.

C. Michaels moved that the ordinance be introduced and passed on first reading and setting November 1, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Tenaflly Municipal Center as the place for a hearing on said ordinance. Seconded by C. Dayton:

The Borough Clerk read into the record:

ORDINANCE 22-23 - AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF TENAFLY

On a roll call, the vote on Ordinance No. 22-23 was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	nay	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	nay	C. Park:	aye

### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

M. Zinna announced that he is reconstituting the adhoc Finance Committee consisting of Steve Silber, Todd Kushman and Gary Gabriel. Mayor Zinna expressed that Darren Esser to be appointed to the Planning Board.

C. Menon asked if the Finance Committee has municipal finance experience.

M. Zinna expressed that each member worked in private industry.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Zinna recognized Wendy Rubinstein, who read into the record Resolution 22-356. BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with NJSA 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenaflly are going into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
  - 1. Lease Negotiations
  - 2. Penetone Update
  
- B. Contract Negotiations
  - 1. Contract Negotiations/Insurance

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room to adjourn this public meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Dayton seconded by C. Park, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session at 10:21 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 10:49pm

Motion by C. Dayton second by C. Menon to Authorize the Borough Administrator investigate other options of Health Insurance for Borough Employees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Menon, second by Dayton and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Omar Stovall, MPA, RMC  
Borough Clerk