

Approved April 9, 2024

53 Park Ave  
Park Ridge, NJ

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**March 26, 2024**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councilmember Hoffman, Councilmember Metzdorf, Councilmember Goldsmith, Councilmember Capilli, Councilmember Mintz and Council President Ferguson

**Absent:** Mayor Misciagna

**Also Present:** John Schettino, Borough Attorney  
Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough Clerk  
Connie Carpenter, CFO  
John Dunlea, Borough Engineer

**Council President Ferguson read the compliance statement earlier as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, and Chapter 231.**

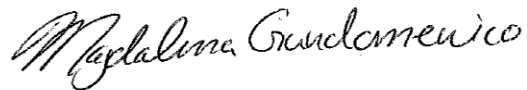
1. **CCO:** The Borough Administrator discussed the desire to use “Certification in lieu of inspection” for CCO’s as done in previous years, a discussion ensued, the Borough Attorney stated that presents a liability for the Borough. The governing body believes it should be handled by fire prevention between the inspectors and Fire Marshall.
  - a. The Borough Administrator will request the Fire Marshall to provide a list of the number of inspections and locations assigned to each of the 4 inspectors. The Council would like to know what inspections and the function of the fire inspectors is.
  - b. After information is a provided to hold a personnel committee meeting with the Fire Marshall.
2. **Pet Store Ordinance:** Councilman Hoffman spoke about the email received from the Animal Protection League of New Jersey (APLNJ) and their support an ordinance to stop the sale of commercially raised puppies. Given that New York has become the sixth state to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, they want to ensure that none of New York’s puppy-selling pet stores find a new safe haven once New York’s law goes into effect. A discussion ensued.
  - a. The Borough Attorney stated how the law has not yet impacted and come to our area.
  - b. Councilman Hoffman will reach out to the email sender and ask them for a copy of the law and the Borough Clerk will see what ordinance was used by surrounding communities.

3. **Mill Pond Oversight Committee** – Councilman Goldsmith spoke about the possibility of creating an oversight committee to help with the Mill Pond dredging.
  - a. Council President Ferguson stated how the Borough has Green Team Committee and any Mill Pond Clean up would fall under them and the Mayor creates committees.
4. **CFO:** The Borough CFO spoke about the bonds that will be sold and combined, a total of \$16.395 million in bonds. The finance committee will meet Wednesday morning for a final look at the budget, this way the Borough Budget will be introduced for a meeting in April. The CFO sent out 50 letters to seniors about senior water rates, 16 replied of which 4 were applicable. The CFO also spoke about Audit remarks about the PRAA owning the Borough about \$7,333. we might owe Montvale about \$33,000 back per ordinance 2021-022 and both WLC and Montvale need to pay \$14,000 a Triboro generator. There was also a shortfall of \$100,00 for Triboro Ambulance that was never submitted timely at the time Ordinance 2021-022 was adopted and implemented, the grant is gone now.

**Open Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 7: 25 pm**

Councilman Metzdorf made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Councilman Capilli confirm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Magdalena Giandomenico".

Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough Clerk