

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 AT 7:01P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AT BOROUGH HALL

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

BOROUGH CLERK: this meeting is being held in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by forwarding a Sunshine notice which included the time, date and location of this public meeting of the Mayor and Council.

ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Councilman Fitzhenry, Councilman Karcic, Councilwoman Sheedy, Councilman Del Russo, Councilwoman Bocchino

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Daniel H. Pronti, Borough Clerk, Kathleen Moore, Borough Administrator, Stephen Lo Iacono, Borough Attorney, Randy Pearce

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 16, 2025

Executive Session – January 16, 2025

Special Meeting – January 27, 2025

Mayor Pronti: Before we approve the minutes I want to make a minutes correction 2/13/25 the scholarship amount was not \$200 it was \$250.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

RESOLUTIONS OFF CONSENT

R-78-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CAPTAINS (Encarnacao, Edwards)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-79-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF POLICE SERGEANTS (Nayda, Feola)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

SWEARING IN CEREMONY:

Captain Encarnacao, Captain Edwards, Sergeant Nayda, Sergeant Feola

Mayor Pronti: I just want to say one thing really quick. This is a great group of people coming up to get promoted. I am very proud to say that I've see you guys in action. I know the great job that you all do; they deserve this position and they will do great where they are. We watch everybody in action day in and day out, we know who deserves what and who doesn't deserve what. We have a great Police Department and a wonderful Chief.

Chief Horton: First, I want to thank the Mayor and Councilmembers for their continued support, these guys are awesome, it's an honor to work alongside with all of them from the beginning. Augie and I grew up together, we worked in Paterson, so this is very special, congratulations. I also want to say congratulations to all the families as well.

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 80-25 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 93-25 DETAILED BY TITLE BELOW, ARE LISTED ON A CONSENT AGENDA, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS. IF A COUNCIL MEMBER DESIRES DISCUSSION ON A SPECIFIC RESOLUTION, THAT ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

R-80-25 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS

R-81-25 RESO RE: TAX OFFICE – REFUND OF MONIES

R-82-25 RESO RE: SUPPORTING PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

R-83-25 RESO RE: INCREASE IN ANNUAL LOSAP CONTRIBUTION

R-84-25 RESO RE: PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSION – REQUEST FOR
STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PLANNING AND
CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARALLEL INTERCEPTOR

R-85-25 RESO RE: APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND THE OFFICE AND
PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE'S INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, LOCAL 32
("WHITE COLLAR")

R-86-25 RESO RE: 2025 BUSINESS LICENSES

R-87-25 RESO RE: PAYING CALLED UP RESERVIST THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
FULL SALARY AND MILITARY PAY

~~R-88-25 RESO RE: SALARY INCREASES FOR CERTAIN PART TIME/NON-
CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES~~ (Pulled from Consent)

R-89-25 RESO RE: SALARY INCREASES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS
R-90-25 RESO RE: SALARY INCREASES FOR PER DIEM EMTS AND DISPATCHERS
R-91-25 RESO RE: FIRE DEPARTMENT LOSAP QUALIFICATION FOR 2024
R-92-25 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF
ACCUMULATED TIME OF POLICE SERGEANT GIUSEPPE RINZIVILLO
R-93-25 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE
AND INSTALLATION OF, RADIOS, LIGHTS, SIRENS AND ACCESSORIES FOR
ONE POLICE SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH
ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Karcic requests Resolution 88-25 be pulled from consent for further discussion due to the nature of it in executive session.

MOTION TO APPROVE

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry*, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
*Abstains from all Fire Department matters
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY: Those of us with Irish descent here celebrating our heritage with the green tie and green dresses, I really appreciate it thank you very much, my tie specifically represents the country. The Governor signed a record \$58 billion budget which is \$20 billion more than it was when Christie's last term after his eight years, there is \$3.2 billion in surplus two years ago there was \$6.3 billion in surplus, so that's whittling down a little bit. On top of that we are going to receive by the summer time a 17% utility increase for electricity in the State of New Jersey. It's very important that it's becoming more and more difficult to live as an average person. On the happier note I'd like to congratulate those who were promoted tonight they are all well-deserved; I wish them all the best of luck. This is another example of our continued commitment to create a safer police department with proper manpower and command staff. This obviously creates a safer North Arlington that we can see happening right now. Chief Horton has nothing but great expectations for our newly promoted officers. As we all know public safety is our priority. It's been quite a busy month for our emergency services. The police department found and arrested a person who illegally touched a female, this person was found and arrested. This month has been busy for the fire department, when a fire is called in North Arlington everybody responds, normally the first person to arrive on the scene is usually a police officer. I would like to read some information from the police Chief and fire Chief. From January till March there were 10 fires, 3 in the building, 7 dumpster fire, 9 natural gas leaks, one carbon monoxide incident, 26 activated alarms for fire or co alarms, 7 hazardous conditions, 6 public systems (water leaks, smokes, things like that), 1 good (inaudible) call and 3 EMS assists (elevator, entrapments, patients that needed help to be carried), with a total of 63 calls for services, 206 incidents hours and a total of 1,353 hours. There are 4 incidents I want to highlight. On 2/22 the fire department dispatched to a report of a house fire on Legion Place right next to the fire house, so the trucks did not roll out too far, they found fire on the outside of the rear house, the fire was quickly extinguished with no injuries

to civilians or firefighters, damages were limited to the exterior of the home. On 3/1 the fire department was dispatched on Morgan Place, found an outside fire that extended to the siding inside walls of the home into the garage, the fire was quickly extinguished, one juvenile was transported to the hospital with injuries related to smoke, no injuries to the firefighters. On 3/4 the fire department was dispatched to a house on Schuyler Ave, they found a significant fire on the first, second and attic space in the home. On the back side of the home, the fire was unoccupied and under renovation; it took about an hour to bring the fire under control, the fire went to a 2nd alarm, received by other municipalities by mutual aid to cover the borough. The home was significantly damaged on multiple floors, no injuries to civilians or firefighters. That particular day, some other towns had house fires, so this affects the mutual aid plans that we have in North Arlington, so we normally call a certain town. So, we actually saw a little ferry fire engine in North Arlington which is not normal, but they are part of a master plan when it comes to emergency situations like that. I applaud the Chief for a wonderful job. Lastly, on 3/7 they were dispatched to a large brush fire on the border of Kearny and North Arlington, it was a mulch fire, we have had these before. The fire fighters did a fantastic job like always. For the library please check the website calendar for all the events, there's pretty much a full calendar with different events for the community. Lastly Councilwoman Donna Bocchino is going to join what we call the "sash club", for those of us who have been honored as dignitaries in the Irish Association, she will be the Grand Deputy Marshall, congratulations to Donna.

COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO: I attended the Recreation Commission at the Corsi house, I have to say the volunteers at DPW did a wonderful job cleaning that up and renovating, they put up new floors and painted. They did work very hard to make it nice and comfortable so they can hold more meetings and utilize that space a little better. The Memorial Day Parade is coming up and we have a lot of stuff already confirmed for that day. The tribute banner program is still open, if you want to order one feel free to contact me, the deadline is 4/4. We will have them up for Memorial Day. Zumba is still going on every Saturday at the Washington School at 10:30am followed by open gym. Football and cheerleading signups are underway it will be held at the senior center on 4/29 from 5pm till 8:30pm. We have good news the girls' basketball team are in the playoffs, so best of luck to them. April 5th will be opening day for baseball and softball they will have parades starting at 9am behind the Borough Hall and going down to the fields, if anyone is interested please come join us. The girls will be playing a night game, so that will be special being that the lights are now up, thanks to this governing body. Last there is a co-sponsorship with the Board of Education we are installing lightning detectors at Rip Collins Field, Allen Field and Zadroga Field, this is very important; the installations will start on Monday.

COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY: The Board of Health will have a SNAP representative on 3/20 from 10:00am till 2:00pm to assist with application process, if anyone is interested you will need to schedule an appointment at the Board of Health. Also a reminder that your cats and dogs need to be licensed, right now the fee is \$10 for neutered dogs and \$13 for non-neutered dogs you can pay cash or check. There is a \$25 late fee after 3/31 and you will be subject to a summons after 4/1. The free rabies vaccination clinic is being held on Wednesday 3/26 at 6:30pm till 7:30pm at Legion Place Firehouse. Under special events Celebrate North Arlington is going to be 9/27/25 with a rain date 10/4/2025, we are working again with Cliffhanger Productions we have been working with them for two years, we are very positive about the partnership we have with them. Local businesses and the community groups will have the opportunity to sign up as food vendors

or for informational tables. We are still setting up the summer concerts, we have been to two showcases; we saw some really good bands, so, we are really excited to bring some new acts into town. On 3/3 I had the opportunity to participate in Read Across America week with the Board of Education. I went to Susan B. Anthony school and read to a 4th grade group who was very excited, they had lots of questions, I read them a book named, "What Do You Do With An Idea?". I thought this was a great book for me to read to them, because this is what I do here. I usually come up with some very interesting ideas that sometimes people might think are weird and crazy, some of my ideas have been really productive for North Arlington and enjoyed by many residents. The kids had a really good time and great questions. They wanted to know if I knew the Mayor and the Chief, I said yes of course I know who they are, and they asked if I knew Mr. Rossi the crossing guard. I know the Mayor will agree with me on that one Mr. Rossi is a very important one. As Brian alluded to the sash club, George McDermott, our dispatcher, was honored by the Rutherford Irish American Association as the EMT of the year, so he marched in the parade and I invited him to join us on Sunday to march with us.

COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO: I would like to congratulate the officers promoted this evening. Thank you for your service to our community your commitment as well and stay safe. I was very happy to represent Mayor Pronti and our Councilmembers while reading a proclamation last Friday, for the reorg meeting at the Peruvian Civic Association. Congratulations to Jorge Ponce for becoming President for their 2025 calendar year. I know he will do a fantastic job. I also had the opportunity to participate in Read Across America last week, I had to read at my old grammar school. I read a Dr. Seuss book, it was very informative, very good and I loved answering all the questions they had, I answered for 20 minutes. It was great and I really enjoyed it as much as they did. The DPW department has begun the cleaning and preparations to all the fields for opening day, this includes cleaning all restrooms, kitchens, turning the water back on and to check all buildings and grounds. Donna Bocchino said the work at the Corsi House is completed, they did a lot of renovations and it looks very nice. The last thing they did was the floors and it came out fantastic. There have been 12 snow and ice events this year and they were addressed without any issues. We had no major breakdowns and all of our equipment is in tip top shape. Landscaping has begun, they are currently doing spring cleanup on all Borough properties. The DPW crew continues to fill potholes as needed, as well striping of handicapped parking spots, this is done on a monthly basis. They had to remove two trees and some trimming due to the recent storm. One large tree at 134 Riverview Ave fell and damaged a property and a vehicle, thank god no one was hurt; they took care of it right away. I had the opportunity to meet with a concerned resident down at Macaluso Park, she was very happy to hear our plans to repair the pathways and install new lighting and benches. She liked those ideas and was very happy. Macaluso Park is a very special place to me, because I grew up there. Vinnie Macaluso was always there I knew him he was a fantastic guy. He was at every sporting event for over 45 years no lie. Our senior group had their St. Patrick's Day party yesterday with over 50 seniors in attendance and like always they had a great time. They are looking forward to the senior prom and the summer concerts, they are all very excited.

COUNCILMAN KARCIC: Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus is sponsoring on Sunday March 16th morning breakfast on River Road, all proceeds will go to support our North Arlington CERT team, so come down and enjoy a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, potatoes, oatmeal, cereal and a fruit cup. The tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids 11 years old and

under. You can visit our website for information or call to reserve your ticket. I want to start off by congratulating all of our officers that were promoted tonight. Over my ten years here working with our volunteers our emergency service team has been really an honor. I have to say I have been there for every swearing in of almost all the officers that we have at this point. So congratulations to all and best of luck, they have the full support of the Mayor and Councilmembers. The police Chief gave me his new report. So the police department is currently staffed by one Chief, two Captains, three Lieutenants, eight Sergeants and twenty officers for a total of 34 police officers. For those of you who don't know we have two police officers that work directly with the BOE and the public schools as school resource officers, they are in the school full time to assist them with what they need and to provide additional security and safety. We are very proud we got this done, because when we started talking about the safety of the kids, it was a no brainer. It was just a matter of getting everything in place and getting the wheels moving.

Mayor Pronti: And that's where the lightning detectors came out of the same meeting.

Mario Karcic continues: Absolutely, a lot of the things come out those meetings, and I like to highlight that because there's a lot of people who like to criticize and spread rumors. Do we fight with the BOE sometimes? Absolutely and it's not out of anything more than what is best for the children. And just like anything else, everybody's got a different opinion on how we do that sometimes. We have done a lot over the years with the BOE. I have a daughter in school and I want her to be safe, just like every other kid in school. Thank you to the officers for all the hard work they do. The police officers have been training, since they are fully staffed they are able to do more training. In February one officer attended the Bergen County bomb training, two attended the Bergen County Regional SWAT monthly training and one officer attended the FBI leadership course. Several officers were assigned to North Arlington special operations unit and two attended advanced handgun training. They also participated in Read Across America. In the month of February there was a total of 2,808 cases, 1450 property checks, 254 motor vehicle stops, and 1668 summons issued, 11 arrests, 5 warrants 2 for assault and 1 theft. The Detective Bureau took in 25 cases of stalking, sexual offense and frauds. We all know Chief Horton stepped into the role last year, I love what he is doing and he added onto the report, aggressive motor vehicle enforcement, high visibility patrol and directed anti-crime patrols. Directed patrols will be assigned as necessary whenever manpower allows. Additional unmarked side street patrols will be assigned as a proactive countermeasure to a residential commercial burglary, vehicle burglaries, vehicle thefts, acts of criminal mischief and other residential quality of life issues resulting in police activity including Borough Ordinance summonses, traffic summonses being issued and arrests being made. This report was respectfully submitted by Chief Horton.

COUNCILWOMAN CAVADAS: EXCUSED

MAYOR PRONTI: I have a few things to add. I wanted add one thing to what would be Councilwoman Cavadas' report; the library has done an upgrade on their system and they are going with the Kanopy system, for those of you who are not familiar with that, if you have a library card you can go to the library now with your card or go online and you can actually take out movies you can rent them as well for free. It's almost like having a free movie channel, so you don't have to go anywhere. I want to touch on the promotions again. I am very proud of the guys I actually swore them in as patrolmen, and now they get promoted. It's nice to see them progress. Chief

Horton is here in the room and I want to say he is doing a tremendous job, we've seen such a difference since your arrival, everything seems to be going smoothly, and I want to thank you for that. I want to recognize the women in this room, this is women's month, our NA rock is painted for the women's month, if you get a chance go down to River Road and you can see it, Vanessa does a great job. We have a tab on our Borough page where you can actually see it and you can see previous ones; every few months I send the artwork to Katie and she has it put on. I had the opportunity to stand in at the fire on Noel Drive, I have to say I was very impressed with the way our men and women handled themselves at the fire scene, the way the police cordoned everything off they were there in seconds, they got there before I did, they really did a great job. I've watched firemen before and I've watched it in another town, to remain nameless, but I have never seen a fire put out so quickly where it's usually just to save the foundation. They did a great job and put it out and left it to be repaired. I partook in Read Across America last week. I read to two first grade classes, then I went to the pre-k class. Now pre-k was an experience. The teacher told me that the kids don't like to sit down on the mat, so I said let's all sit on the mat, I wanted to see if I could get the kids to list while I read a book, and they did sit down. Halfway through the book they were climbing on me and while I was reading I had a kid with his hand on my face when he was trying to show the pictures. We had a great time and they loved taking pictures. I went out to dinner, two days later, we went to Tejos with my family, and one of the kids was there with his family, he got so excited when he saw me, his father came up to the table and asked me if I was really Mayor Pronti and said "my son said you read to him, can he come over and say hello?" and I said absolutely yes. We had him at the table for a little while, it was very nice. The gardening club will be starting soon, if anyone is interested in joining they're going to be the ones that are going down to the community garden. They have monthly meetings, they're really putting a nice program together. We're going to be tilling the ground very soon and get that prepared.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: The police communication project has been going on, it's quickly coming to a conclusion, the computers are in and being wired now. I would think that in about 60 days or so it should be up and running. We will have a state of the art 911 system. It's fully portable in case we make a change, Mark Zidiak from the fire department has been kind of leading the effort, I think all of us will feel very proud of what we have done. On another note the Affordable Housing, it's been an active month, I've had a couple of group calls with DCA and the League of Municipalities we are one of the 159th towns that are challenging the numbers that have been prepared by the State in terms of what obligations for new affordable units would be over the next ten years, we are fighting that number vigorously but so are another 158 towns, I think we're in for a long ride of litigation on affordable housing. This has been the story that has been with us since the late seventies. It's not getting any easier, it gets more complicated it seems as every round goes by. This is round 4. We are on it and this governing body, along with our Borough attorney, are committed to protecting North Arlington's rights and try to avoid what we certainly consider overdevelopment in the community. The safety sticks that we've talked about in the past would be coming soon, we will probably have them in place in the next 30 to 45 days, and I will have more details on this next month. Another major grant which is federal money, we are going on the assumption that Washington will keep this money in place until we can get it - the resilient communities grant which is committed to redoing and maintaining the river bank. It has been incredibly complicated. This is purely federal money; this has been meeting after meeting and lots of training. I just got noticed today that I have to do two full days of webinar training, I have never heard something like this. A two day webinar in order to continue to be eligible for this grant.

When all is said and done, we'll see a real total makeover of the River bank, the parks along the river and the fountain that the Mayor has been championing for about two years now. All together, we should see a brand new look down there along the river.

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT: I am going to start my report with Porete Ave, we met with the redeveloper along with the Mayor and administrator to discuss a long list of items that they were to deliver to the borough as it relates to not only the acquisition of properties and the timetable of acquisitions but also a survey regarding Porete Avenue itself. In as much as there is a significant amount of evidence that the property owners down there have been infringing on Porete Avenue over a significant period of time. There are two things that are still outstanding. One is the request for the environmental information on 29 Porete which the attorney has asked for and why the information on 29 is the fact that the redeveloper probably has spent more than three or more years trying to do the acquisition of 29 Porete and each turn, when they think they have a deal, it increases, in terms of the cost of acquisition, to the point where they are told it would cost you \$7 million to acquire site. In the interim, our construction code official received an application to rehab the building, through the consultation that we had with Mr. Pearce we were given direction that in fact, the rehabilitation of that building is not in any way, shape or form in place. There's a bigger thing about 29 Porete Ave., for some people here will recall, that the markings are on the front of the building regarding that it's a dangerous facility or building that should not be occupied. In addition to that, 29 has had significant contamination issues, which those contaminations issues have migrated to other properties. So their liability now is not only the cleanup of 29 Porete Ave, it's the cleanup of all the surrounding properties that their contamination has appeared on. We need to see progress on Porete Avenue. The redeveloper has changed their plan and eliminated 29 Porete Ave. as a site to be included. They have 9 Porete Ave., they want to expand it out, so they have decided that is better to move forward with 40-45,000 square foot warehouse rather than going through years of these discussions. As a result, it is come to the point that the redevelopment of Porete Avenue has become a challenge for a whole host of things, including wanting \$300-\$400 a square foot to buy another building and so forth and so on. Or when a property was bought for by one individual at third \$300,000 and not is up to \$7 million, we are not going to make any progress this way. Our recommendation is to work with the Mayor and Council as to what changes should come to this redevelopment plan and how to expedite to move forward on this project. It could be a significant ratable generator for this municipality with a minimum amount of services or school impacts. We haven't started our discussions with NJDEP. We have gone into the NJDEP files for the purposes of looking at what the timetables and cleanup is supposed to be on 29 Porete Ave. It's called data miner and we pulled up everything that we could without going through an OPRA request, so we have that information. We now have a contact with NJDEP. So you also know, the site has contaminated groundwater. So whoever acquires the site is now required to put in a system that will address the groundwater contamination until such time that NJDEP tells you you don't have to do it anymore. So, whoever takes over the site, it's going to be a significant cost higher than just acquisition and construction. We were also invited to a meeting regarding two projects on Ridge Road. One is the present Your Place Bar and Grill; we saw a very nice plan for a new warehouse restaurant, outdoor seating, we also discussed the parking issues and the valet parking. Some recommendations were made regarding shared services; I think we worked it out. The individual who is doing this is actually very interested in helping Ridge Road to become like Park Ave. (Correction – warehouse was said but it's not a warehouse). The second project was the daycare center, that concept was based on a contract, an

annual contract that the BOE receives for pre-k students, but there is no guarantee that this individual would receive a contract from the BOE considering whether you are going to get funding from the State, the feds or whatever it might be. It was made cleared to them that if it doesn't work, they'd have to go back, start from scratch to deal with that project, so it was a nice concept. The next one may be a bit of an overreach, but I think it's important. I suggested to the Mayor that the Borough moves forward and get the wetland disruption permits to go from the BCUA site to the Belleville Turnpike. One of the biggest issues you always have on the BCUA site is going out to Schuyler Ave. Everyone says that they would love to build through your property, North Arlington, but there's a wetland impact. Based on the files that we pulled, if you build the road closest to the Ridge, based on the wetlands delineation that we have seen from the redeveloper, it might be a quarter to a half-acre that is impacted. My suggestion to the Mayor and Council is let's put an application in for the wetlands disturbance and whoever takes over the BCUA, they will have a permit already, so they can't say it will take us long to get it. We would get the permitting, which we will be reimbursed, but then all traffic goes out through that road. Last, we did submit a request for expressions of interest on the Melray's site, specifically for parking, but more importantly for retail commercial restaurant use. We are going to let that stay out there for 60 days.

Mayor Pronti: Was that the design that we initially spoke about?

Robert Ceberio: Yes it is, it's the 100 parking spaces, it's the donation of the property the existing parking area, donate that to whoever the developer is as our donation so that we have control over some of those 100 parking areas. We have to calculate how much the retail commercial each use, which is calculated by either tables or square footage, figure out what the total parking is. The bottom line is to bring that section of Ridge Road the parking that it desperately needs and to inject 22 to 24,000 square feet of retail commercial space.

Mayor Pronti: The other thing I had for you was the contamination at 29 Porete Ave, we spoke about this earlier, but I want to make sure that is caught and controlled before it goes to other parcels nearby. So if we can get on top of them and make sure that there's some type of action taken even where they drill the holes and do the testing. Find out how far it seeds out, so that this has been going on for hundred of years. Don't let it go any further.

Robert Ceberio: Those who don't know, all the oils, PCBs, anything that was used to take care of metals was allowed to drip down onto the floor. There were channels taking all of these liquids into an open pit inside the building.

Mayor Pronti: What year did that stop?

Councilman Fitzhenry: I think it was 2015 or 2016.

Robert Ceberio: Imagine telling someone, like the construction code official, all we want to do is rehab it. We will fill in the holes and we'll match clean.

ENGINEERS REPORT AUGUST MATARAZZO: On March 4th we had a pre-construction meeting with American Athletic Courts that was recorded co-op vendor for the court at Fisher

Field, we have an anticipated start construction for late March, early April for basketball courts. We are waiting for good weather to display the asphalt it binds better, and when we put down the acrylic surface we don't have any blemishes. The flood barrier installations started yesterday at DPW and will continue today, we anticipate a week to two week install. This will prevent flood water from coming into the garage and office space. Earlier today we had a meeting with Smith Soudy to remobilize them to finish of any remaining work from last year road paving. This would be any concrete work and any miscellaneous paving in particular on Riverview and Morgan.

Mayor Pronti: Is that the Riverview Park by Macaluso Park?

August Matarazzo: That is correct.

Mayor Pronti: That's when they're going to do the pathways at the park?

August Matarazzo: The pathways are going to be a separate project. This is going to be just the roadways.

Mayor Pronti: They were going to try to do the pathways with the road to save money, because they were only going to dispatch them one time. Is that the same cost?

August Matarazzo: We were going to do that, but it turned out when we got the estimate back, it did not turn out the same way, because we extended the limits for Riverview, going from the park extended down to Sunset the next couple blocks so we opted to go with a separate contractor for Macaluso Park.

Administrator Lo Iacono: We are hoping to use 2024 money for Macaluso Park.

August Matarazzo: We have a separate grant for Macaluso as well. For the 2025 roadway program grant, the money has become available, we had conversations with DPW for the total project scope. DOT roads (inaudible). We have CPG money which will be (inaudible) place and then we have two additional roads the municipal will be municipally funded. That will be Locus Ave. and the dead end of West Street. We are currently drafting the RFP Bid for the State Passaic Resiliency Project, this is for the bulkhead down at Daniel Morris Park. We should have that in the next two weeks, we need to send that to DCA for their review before we get approved for bidding for design firms. We received guidance from NJDEP and FEMA for the flood damage prevention ordinance it has to be updated per new guidance, we sent a draft ordinance per the model that is on the DEP website. It was also sent to FEMA and DEP today for their review and we should get them back in a couple of weeks. The adoption deadline is in June.

Administrator: It's important to note that the flood ordinance he is referring to, plus the storm water ordinance which is a new requirement, are incredibly complex issues, very complicated and time consuming, we are mandated, there's no choice in the matter.

Councilwoman Sheedy: Would you be able to get me drawings for Legend's Court that I can share with the committee?

August Matarazzo: Yes, I can send you the drawings. We have the stenciling and we also have the custom benches and the reader boards.

Councilwoman Sheedy: The only thing, it also said photos and I don't want to do photos. We agreed on not doing photos because after years it kind of gets weird (inaudible).

Councilman Fitzhenry: In reference to the proposed flooding and storm resiliency grant, you're talking about proposed bulks. Is this basically from the bridge near Arlington Diner right through County Park, the entire distance?

August Matarazzo: No, this is the distance from the boat launch at the firehouse to the North most point of that park.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

Stephanie Wheaton: 17 Second Street. We just moved to North Arlington we are super happy to be here. Something that we did consider when we were moving was the crime rates. North Arlington crime rates have significantly stayed the same or lower in the past few years, which is really important to us. And also EMS programs because my husband was looking to volunteer since he is a rescue paramedic. Also the Bergen County has developed a program to help with ambulances and EMS, but due to Federal funding cuts that program is not going to be robust as it has been. It seems like North Arlington has not amped up the EMS program. I have been told that there are plans for a new police department, as opposed to making sure that we have enough EMS services. We've seen that when we don't care, and we don't care for folks with basic services, there's an increase in crime. Something that did strike me a little bit as worrisome was the purchase of a parking lot by a developer. The developer will take this parking lot, will upcharge the parking space so residents cannot afford to park there. Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers let's hold off on the Police Department or maybe we find funding to make sure that we are taking care of our ambulances and EMS services, or maybe pay our volunteers a little bit more per year. It cost us \$2,700 to become an EMT and right now stipends are \$700, it's not exactly cost effective for a high school student looking to do into the field.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

Mayor Pronti: The police department that we are proposing is a project probably 25 years overdue. So they have been working out of what's a crafted trailer that was brought here years ago, and it was then added onto the building, it looks like a nice brick facade, but it's actually a trailer there. That project we will get funding for it. The EMS is in our plan, so don't think we neglect, we never

neglect first responders, a lot of us are first responders. We do have do have plans in the future for the redoing of a firehouse with an EMS in one, which will free up the location of where the current EMS is, and would give us a more centralized location. If you wait a few months you will probably see the schematic of what this parking lot will look like. I think you will be very, very happy to see what we're proposing there. Everything we are setting out to do it will be pretty impressive. Where everything that now faces every different direction is all going to face a centralized location out in our parking lot, where we have out Celebrate North Arlington festival and we have a big centralized Borough Hall and that would have all the buildings coming together. So that is our plan and hopefully you will be here a long time and you will get to see all of these things. We have a lot of plans for the baby, a lot of upgrades if you've seen Fisher Field the brand new park that we just did. We do one park every year, and this year we are doing Macaluso Park, so every year you will be seeing upgrades and the little playgrounds that are around our athletic fields, we will be updating those because they are getting a little antiquated. People used to go to the ones at the elementary schools, they have changed it where you couldn't go with your small child during school hours because there is a lot of regulations with safety in the schools now.

Councilman Fitzhenry: In reference to the EMS services, there is a county EMS service, they went from having one rig to having 7 or 8 rigs, it's fully funded by the County, they are not funded by the U.S. government and not only that, but it's also funded by charging the customers and those that don't have insurance they don't charge at all. It's a very successful program that is growing every day. However Bergen County is a pretty big County with 77 communities in it, it's difficult because we are at the very end of Bergen County, sorry we are at the beginning of Bergen County, we're where Bergen County begins. Secondly North Arlington was heavily reliant on volunteers and there is an epidemic in the State of New Jersey now. Most volunteers fire department along with volunteer EMS squads are fallen by the wayside and we have had that same epidemic here in North Arlington. What we've been doing recently is hiring fulltime EMTs to replace that, we are doing everything in our power to make sure there's no interruption for service for particularly our senior residents.

Councilman Karcic: The only thing I'm going to add is regarding the ambulances, the new Chief down there has put together a multi-year plan, due to a number of things that need to be done, updates needed to the building and some of the ambulances, but also part of that problem is that if we get a new ambulance we have no space to put it, so there's lot of factors that we are working on. He has a plan that we are going to be working through over the next couple of years and planning out. Would we love to go out and buy 3 new fire engines and 6 ambulances? Yes. Can we do that realistically? No. That's why we asked him to do the multi-year plan and we'll be working with him on that.

Mayor Pronti: Have you met the new EMS Chief?

Stephanie Wheaton: No have not yet.

Mayor Pronti: He is a new Chief and he's very, very excited about it, he is very approachable. I would recommend talking to him. Regarding the parking this is not what you thought you heard, because that would never ever happen. We do get people that come in and propose crazy things like that all the time. We get developers that come in to our construction office and make these

astronomical proposals, and people will misconstrue that as that's what's going in there, if they knew and understood the process they would know better than that. We cannot stop people from proposing things. So what happens they will come in and will say we want to do a swap and we don't have enough parking, so in exchange we are going to take these spots and we want municipal parking; we don't do that. What we are proposing is we own a parcel of property that is on a ground level on Ridge Road that is a municipal parking lot. It's below where the current Melray's site is. What I want to do there is to turn that into retail stores, only if whoever purchases that property builds a parking deck above which would triple the amount of parking that we have, and it would triple their income, because now they would have the first floor retail, and it would never be a problem with where they would park when they came. It's a great proposal, so I hope that clears up your expectations. That is totally different than what you thought you heard. That stuff that you read or see on social media is not true.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2435

ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON CODE ENTITLED "CHAPTER 361 - RESTRICTED AREAS"

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2432

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 187 §9(B) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" PROVIDING FOR A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE (9 Arlington Avenue)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2432 TO THE PUBLIC

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

No one wishes to be heard.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

ORDINANCE NO. 2433

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY
WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2433 TO THE PUBLIC

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

No one wishes to be heard.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

ORDINANCE NO. 2434

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PENALTY PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN
CHAPTER 187, SECTION 13 OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON CODE
ENTITLED, "TRUCK PARKING HOURS RESTRICTED"

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2434 TO THE PUBLIC

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

No one wishes to be heard.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-94-25 RESO RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council wish to discuss: CONTRACTUAL MATTERS, ANTICIPATED AND/OR PENDING LITIGATION, ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY **WHEREAS**, public release of the discussion will only occur after counsel approval and action may or may not occur after discussion. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council are now in executive session

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas
[Executive Session]

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS- 8:25pm

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-88-25 RESO RE: SALARY INCREASES FOR CERTAIN PART-TIME/NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES, AS AMENDED

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-95-25 RESO RE: OFFICER ROBERT EVANS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic
SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-96-25 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH PLANNER (Neglia Engineering)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

R-97-25 RESO RE: JERSEY PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Cavadas