

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 AT 7:02P.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: Councilwoman DeCicco, Councilman Karcic, Councilwoman Sheedy, Councilman Del Russo, Councilwoman Bocchino

Excused: Councilman Fitzhenry

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pronti: Today we mark the 24th anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks, a day that forever changed our Country and our community. Like so many of you, I can recall with painful clarity where I was when I initially saw the smoke coming from New York City skyline. The shock, disbelief and sorrow of that morning will never leave us. I can remember each stop of the way learning the details and seeing firsthand the horror and destruction caused by the radical, hateful terrorists, people with no compassion or regard for human life. People we wish to separate ourselves from and hope to never again fall victim to here in North Arlington, we know families whose loved ones were working in Manhattan and the Pentagon. Some never came home, we also know first responders who bravely ran towards the danger as others tried to run away. True heroes were made that day in our Borough, we pride ourselves on being a close knit community on 9/11 and the difficult days that followed or strength came from one another. Neighbors checked on neighbors, families opened up their homes, people lined up to donate blood, deliver food and offer comfort. That same spirit of unity continues to define what we are today. Each year we come together to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost and to recognize the extraordinary heroism shown by firefighters, police officers, EMT'S and ordinary citizen who stepped forward that day. Their courage and selflessness represent the very best of America. We lost some of our own as a result, we will always remember the names Joseph Piscalo, Adel Zachary and Joseph Velardo. We also remember James Zadroga and Mayor Joseph Bianchi, who later succumbed as a result of search and recovery efforts at Ground Zero, their names and legacies will never be forgotten. They will be forever a part of the fabric of North Arlington. We cannot let that tragic day become just another page in the history books, 24 years later we owe it to those we lost and to future generations to keep telling their stories to remind our children and grandchildren, why we pause on this day, why the word forget means so much and why freedom, democracy and community must always be protected. I want to thank all who honor this solemn day, whether with loved ones or in quiet

reflection at home. Together we keep alive the memory of the lives cut short and the bravery that carried us through leading into this day we witnessed more uncalled for violence in our Country. Just last week a beautiful young woman from Ukraine was brutally murdered on a train in Charlotte, because of how she looked she was killed by a violent criminal who was out freely walking the streets her name was Irina Zerka. Just where the shooter injured two innocent students before turning the gun on himself. When we saw a man named Charlie Kirk assassinated while offering a peaceful message of his Christian values on a college campus in Utah. Charlie Kirk a 31 year old, married father of two was gunned down by someone who didn't agree with his message that happened in the United State of America, the lunacy has got to stop. May God Bless all the victims and their families, May God Bless the people of North Arlington and May God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank You, for listening. If anybody up here has anything they want to add to anything in reference to the 9/11.

Councilman Del Russo: There many who lost their live and family members in the terrorist attacks on our Nation on that tragic day on September 11th,2001. We as a Council in this Borough, remember one of our very own detective James Zadroga who was a North Arlington born and raised. As you are probably aware, James was the first police officer to pass away from 9/11 related issues. The son of our former Chief Joseph Zadroga he attended Woodrow Wilson School in town. Then Jim went on to graduate from our very own North Arlington High School. I watched him grow up and then follow his father's footsteps to become a police officer. May God Bless him and his family, Thank You.

Mayor Pronti: Thank You, for sitting through that it's something we do from time to time, next year is 25 years for 9/11 and we will be doing a more extravagance a ceremony, much like we did for the 20th anniversary as well. We'll be looking forward to that next year.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

2025 U.S. National Taekwondo Champions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 12, 2025

Executive Session – June 12, 2025

Special Meeting – June 16, 2025

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

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

ABSTAIN: DeCicco

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 204-25 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 213-25 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-204-25 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS

R-205-25 RESO RE: TAX OFFICE – REFUND OF MONIES

R-206-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF PER-DIEM EMTS

R-207-25 RESO RE: GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

R-208-25 RESO RE: ACCEPTANCE OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN / AUDIT REPORT
FOR 2024

R-209-25 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS
FOR 2025 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (NJDOT & CDBG FUNDED)

R-210-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARD

R-211-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARD TO PERMANENT STATUS

R-212-25 RESO RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LEONARD PLACE ROADWAY
IMPROVEMENTS (CDBG FUNDED)

R-213-25 RESO RE: CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY: EXCUSED

COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO: Today the football team and cheerleaders of North Arlington Vikings had their pep-rally that is going on right now. Their first game starts tomorrow, so we want to wish them all the best of luck and encourage all you to get down there and support the kids if you can. I have also been working on Halloween, it's right around the corner so we've came up with a date for this year, we're going to do it on a Saturday so we have a rain date of Sunday, we've been rained down a few times and we don't want to see that happen, so it will be Saturday October 25th with a rain date of October 26th start of time will be at 10am it will be for humans and pets we will have our pet costume contest, also the hay ride, music, refreshments and of course pumpkin and photo ops. It's always a great event; I love this event. So speaking of that I met with Daisa from the community garden today so we could start prepping for that, there's a lot of weeds and stuff it's hard she's on her own with a handful of people, so if anyone could go and pitch in, come down we could use the help and you get to take home some veggies for the family, if you want to get involved with that just go down. They also have a Facebook North Arlington community garden you could get ahold of her and see when they're going to clean up, I will be there and I'm sure Allison will get in the dirt with me. I also have been working and I've mentioned this about a year ago, with ready film ready New Jersey. There's a resident in town who reached out to me who is very interested in helping out. You get our community ready in certain aspects; you entice the film industry to come in and film. We've seen it in Kearny, Adam Sandler was filming there all the time, so why can't we get on that? We have to meet certain criteria you have to meet a lot of pictures; a lot of groundwork you know footwork. There's a young man in town who actually works in the industry, so he's helping me out. I am hoping that we will be able to get

the ball rolling very soon and have the certificate as film ready. If anyone is interested also, to have your name on that list, please let me know just reach out to me we will gladly include it on the list. They look for homes, properties. If you want to be involved just reach out to me and I'll gladly put your information in and include you on that.

Mayor Pronti: I think they have separate packet for the homeowners?

Councilwoman Bocchino: It's separate I'll explain it to you, but you will be a part of the New Jersey film ready, you would just have to be a resident and do a different packet, it's a little different for the permitting all that kind of things you have to watch. I will explain this to you; I do this on my other job. it's fun and it's great. Hopefully we'll get that certificate very soon.

COUNCILMAN KARCIC: Before I start, Donna I'm going to tailgate onto yours, I have several friends who are in various production unions and historically they've worked out of New York City for the last 20, 25 years. They are so happy because they're now working out of Kearny. I was at an event with a bunch of them and they all said they do not expect to go back to New York City to work they said that New Jersey is kind of where everything is right now. And on top of that what Netflix is doing building down in South Jersey, but this is a big opportunity for the entire State.

Councilwoman Bocchino: I'm working with four different scouts right now, so I am putting in the word for North Arlington.

Councilman Karcic continues: First I want to thank and honor guard from the police department and fire department for coming here tonight just a brief memorial for 9/11 it's a day that still, as the Mayor weighs very heavy on everybody. I'm going to humbly brag for a second, I was proud that both of my daughters reached out to me today, 20 and 18 I know this is a tough day and they understand. The fact they reached and they reached out to their grandparents to see how they were doing today. To see the younger generation understanding the impact that 9/11 had. Back to the police department every month we've talked about training and Chief Horton is doing an amazing job with the officers. During roll call they have done updates to case law, criminal law, motor vehicle law. We have people go into monthly Bergen County bomb training and regional Bergen County SWAT training, special operations unit training, initial SFST training. I don't know what that is, but they went, police response to sexual assault training, lead a supervisor leadership institute training and command staff training, so that's all in the month. Our officers are constantly being updated on new regulations, new processes and new procedures they were there for National Night Out it was behind Borough Hall our police department was slaving behind the grill keeping that going the line was no less than 20 feet, they just kept pumping out the food and feeding everybody. They were also available at the concerts in the park and they also did the police summer camp with our summer camp people, which I won't touch on because that's Allison's liaison. In the month of August there was a total of 2,101 cases, 866 property checks, we can't stress this enough, you see something say something, call up the police department if you see something suspicious in the neighborhood, they will come out and check on the property, 278 motor vehicle, 7 arrests, 3 assaults, 6 DWI, harassment and obstruction of justice. The Detective Bureau took in 23 new cases and the predominant cases which have been a yearlong are fraud. They keep the continuing enhanced with the community engagement each officer makes a minimum of two

positive citizen contacts per shift non enforcement related. They attend support at least one community event and neighborhood meeting and they helped intelligence through community interactions, there is also the traffic safety initiative where their targeting areas with frequent collision or complaints, they focus on speed enforcement, DWI prevention, which you can see by six arrests this month and seatbelt violations and as always promote safe roadways through enforcement of traffic laws. From our volunteer emergency squad in the month of August they responded a total of 186 calls, they volunteered 357 hours. NAVES would like to congratulate the new EMS Chief Joseph Miller and good luck to Dante Mustacchio former Chief who's now pursuing a career in law enforcement, they wish them all the best in their future careers. They provided standby coverage for concerts in the park and for football games. North Arlington is always accepting new applicants for riding the ambulance and our non-riding auxiliary that helps with events and fundraisers visit www.naves1972.org and be part of the tradition of helping neighbors and saving lives. Lastly for NAVES they are having a fundraiser on 10/17 at the Knights of Columbus where you will see a live comedy show and Italian dinner tickets are \$60 a person, you must be 21 and older to attend, Matt Jenkins, Johnny Lamper and Marian Gordon will be performing at the Knights of Columbus with \$60 you get a show with three different comedians and dinner you can purchase the tickets online at www.naves1972.org and also see the Borough website or Facebook page for the flyer. Lastly tonight we just voted on hiring two new paid EMT'S it's great that we are supporting it, I want to wish Kayla and Matthew the best of luck in their new careers. I know Kayla Fitzsimmons since she was six years old, I love the fact that the kids I watched, I coached and watched them grow up are now staying here and giving back to the community. So I want to wish them both the best of luck.

COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO: Good evening everyone, Mario my goal is to sound just like you, I'm admiring you right now. The library has some good things going on right now on September 16th at 6pm they're going to have story time, on September 26th they're going to have family pajama night, I think it's awesome me being a parent I love to do things like that, so if you are available on those nights you can go check it out. I joined the women's club, where Lynette was the speaker it was great we learned about the different things, a lot of us were able to connect at all different ages, so that was great. I also had the chance to team up with my running mate Kirk, together we put a lot of school's supplies and donate it to Casa Dimitri for me it always feels so good to get back to our communities and make sure that we're putting our families first. Lastly, Access for All will be hosting a painting party on Saturday the 21st from 1pm – 3pm they are looking for volunteers, so if you're free that day you can reach out to Alex or I can help you as well. The kids will be painting and just having music and having a good time, if you're free with your kids stop by, I believe there is a donation of \$5 for each kid.

COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO: I met with Dottie Ford, the President of our senior group she asked me to let Mayor Pronti, Chief Horton, Borough Council and Administrator Steve know how thankful she and her seniors are for the parking arrangements when they have their meetings. I guess they are really thrilled it's very important to them as some of them cannot walk any distance and if they can't park close, I'm told they have to go home and miss the meetings. Thank you Chief, for taking care of that and they just wanted me to mention that. I told her I would today. The seniors will be meeting weekly once again. A couple of seniors had met for breakfast at Mr. Geez this summer that's how they kind of got together, they have had several events planned coming up, the group will be going to La Grecis in Staten Island, on September 23rd for the San

Gennaro festival and I think there's a seat open if John would like to go join them. They also have a psychic coming in October which they're very excited for. I told them as always they will have a Christmas party in December at Michael's Riverside Chalet in Lyndhurst as well. Our DPW the youth summer program was once again very productive as it teaches our high school youth a good work ethic while allowing them to make a couple of extra bucks some money for the summer. Our residents enjoyed our summer concerts, as always our DPW was setting up and breaking down as well as cleaning up after each event, a shout out to Mark and his crew they do a great job every week, they do a fantastic job there. The crew has been doing prep work for celebrate North Arlington day, as always they asked me to ask you if there's anything else you may need Councilwoman Sheedy? Please let them know they are there for you. Phase one of our tree planting program will begin in October many trees were trimmed as needed this past month and there were two removals that were taken care of as well for safety reasons. Leaf season will begin next month and residents are asked to put them in bags and leave them at the curbside and they'll be picked up by our department. Lastly, I'm happy to report that our snow equipment has been serviced and prepared, we are ready for the winter season and any storm that may come our way. Thank You, Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY: The Board of Health will have a representative from SNAP on September 18th at 10am till 2pm to assist with the application process, currently all the appointments are full, but if you really need an appointment you can call the Board of Health and as always Colleen or Cheryl will work to assist you. There's a flu clinic scheduled for October 1st that will be open to seniors, town employees and school employees sponsored by HB pharmacy the flyers are being prepared, it will be on the website shortly. If anyone has any questions about that they can either talk to me or call the Board of Health. The recreation program, the summer rec program that we run has ended we had pizza and some cupcakes, the kids had a great time this camp runs for six weeks. It's not a full day offering, which I understand is not perfect because most people need full day. However, we can't supply that at this point we don't have the proper licensing, it's something that I have been asked to look into, I don't know if at some point we could set up a meeting Steve, to possibly talk about the proper licensing to start looking into a full-time program, I've had a couple of people ask and I guess it's worth maybe sitting down and looking into how much paperwork and if we can make tis accommodation. I want again to thank the police department, fire department and the emergency squad for always coming through and coming down to the camp, showing the kids their equipment, talking to the kids, they get the biggest kick out of this. Our first responders, I cannot say how good they are. I am going to brag every time I can about them because they really do speak to these kids on their level. The kids enjoy it and then they get to see them later on, you know they are passing by and waving away they are all excited they are not afraid of them, they get to know them and they are not going to be afraid to ask them at one point when they need help or if they want advice it's a good figure to look up to in our town as our first responders. I can't thank them enough for what they do for my camp, the bowling alley, thank to them for also for working with us for six weeks because I know it's hard and they make their lanes available to us and their employees. Another reminder celebrate North Arlington is set for September 27th rain date which we don't need October 12th we are really happy with the responses that are coming in right now from our local businesses, we have some new craft vendors that are signing up to come in, if anyone wants to be a vendor and hasn't signed up yet, please reach out to me you can reach out to me tonight or you can email me at my Borough email. I will

respond to you and give you an application, I am hoping everyone's plans on coming because it looks like it's going to be a great day.

MAYOR PRONTI: I just want to say a few things, I know I gave my piece on 9/11. I let everybody know how everything goes as far as that. I want to welcome the students back to school, is everybody excited to be back at school? No. That means that once school goes back it means that soccer is starting, football starting, cheerleaders starting and all the good stuff, track. There's a couple of things too that I am forgetting. I just want to touch on a few things. We met last month as I've been reporting on the phantom senior housing project that we've been talking about for several years, we met with the veterans and the seniors we went over the blueprints, the attorney from the company that's doing the job they are going to be letting us know the date that the plans are going to be finalized, so we did go over everything, I know Bob is going to touch on this we are waiting on that and that should be very soon. It's very exciting, this is going to be 40 units of senior housing some of the units on the first floor are going to have a spare bedroom for seniors who require a live-in-aid and that's important. I found these things out as we progress in life and our families get older and you see these things when you start realizing what happens as you age and what you may need and what you may not need. So that was actually an idea that we came up with and I think it's a great idea. This is also going to be Veteran preference on these units, which is fantastic. I had the VFW and the American Legion both commanders were in my office the other day with Councilman Karcic and myself they are ecstatic, they are so excited about this happening and you know they are looking forward to all the renovations. They are going to be in a brand new area where they are going to be able to pay tribute to holidays and new flag poles, new everything and it's just going to be a great design, there's going to be extra parking, there's going to be plenty of room, everything is of course out of a floodplain because the studies have been done prior too, we don't enter to these deals blindfolded like people may suspect, but everything is done perfectly and the plans should be out very soon. I'm hoping to break ground before the end of the year, hopefully we'll see. I want to ground break in October and of course you wait for little things to happen and when they change plans, these things always get pushed back a bit. I wanted to touch on one thing we did a 70 town noticed for Governor Murphy's phasing out natural gas plan and it's something that obviously isn't working because our bills would not be this high. So I joined on with 70 other municipalities, 69 or so other municipalities so North Arlington is on that list. We are pushing against the idea of phasing out natural gas, if you are looking to electricize everything, solar wind and solar panels this is something that obviously isn't working. I oppose this due to the wind turbines that they wanted to put in the Jersey Shore. What was happening was they were using sonar to bury the lines for these wind turbines and what it's doing is the sonar interacts with the way the whales communicate and the whales were actually beaching themselves and were experiencing. If you noticed you haven't seen it in a while because they stopped doing it, but a few years back you were seeing whales beaching themselves on a very alarming rate. It's not a coincidence and people will deny that if this is the case, but it's not a coincidence that this happens when they're using sonar to do this, so we are opposing to that, I am joining the coalition. The other thing is over this past month we did the blessing of the two new motorcycles that we got from Queen of Peace from the catholic cemeteries, the father came, the Chief and I were there it was a very nice ceremony that the priest reach out to us and wanted to ensure that they had enough coverage watching over our police officers, which is a great commendable idea, so of course we took them up on the offer, we went, we gathered, we took some photos and hopefully you get to see the motorcycles, they've been out for those of you who haven't seen it. I know the kids look

forward to seeing that stuff, the police motorcycles are amazing because they can go any place a pedestrian can go. When they take the police training they can go upstairs, up steps down through alleys, small areas and the course is unbelievable if you ever watch it. It's great because it's a tool and it's going to make the processions, the funeral processions that is much safer coming into town and the cemetery and everything else, it's definitely a goof tool and they were given to us by the catholic cemeteries, because as you know you can't tax the cemeteries it's a catholic entity, you can't tax the schools, you can't tax the churches religious institutions it just can't happen. Some people may think that you can, but until they prove to us that can be done we can't. the last two things I wanted to touch on is our long awaited fountain will be delivered between the 12th and the 20th of this month, so we went down there and I met with the engineer at Daniel Morris Park and we marked out the location of where that fountain's going to be. There's going to be a hardscape, it's going to be a porous surface that's hardscape. It will be very nice it will trail; it's going to make an extension of the river walk that we've been discussing since 2016. The fountain will be one of the main focal points along that. The last thing I want to mention is the basketball court, Councilwoman Sheedy is working so diligently for the past three years, it's called Legends Court. I spoke to the engineer earlier today and the stenciling and lettering should be in this week. So I want to make sure that those things are in within the next two weeks, stay tuned there's going to be a nice ceremony. She is frustrated because she wanted that done yesterday, I can't blame her. It's a great idea, it's a concept that Councilwoman Sheedy came up with and it honors two of the legendary coaches from North Arlington and it's going to be something where their names are going to be in the center of the court and down the line in the future if there's another person that is to be honored, there'll be room for them to be honored on the court as well. It's going to be part of the attractions at Fisher Field. So as we're doing more and more things down there at Fisher Field ten years ago was just a rundown playground and if you go down there now it's amazing the things that are going on. We have discussed various different things that we were going to put down there, we have three spaces that are available there, it could actually be one larger space. Over the years we've toyed with either putting in a hockey rink or a dog park or a few other different things, but that always go back and forth because when you ask people what they want down there you're going to get 15 different rationales of what they want to put in there, we will decide what we're going to put there, what's best, what best fits for North Arlington. I want to thank everybody for that.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: I do want to follow up in a few things that Councilman Del Russo mentioned especially in terms of the DPW, we had a very successful concert series this summer more people attended than ever before. We had more concerts than we ever did, we did in conjunction with the County and all our departments did an excellent job, but DPW in particular always making North Arlington look very professional. I am always proud of them and the way they made this appear specially some of the County people, I want to commend them for that. This past week we had a very serious sewer break that we responded to at 7:30am our personnel were on the job repairing the sewer break from 7:30am until 4:30am the following morning and they got it done without bringing in an outside contractor, everyone was on the scene including the superintendent. I was just simply amazed at the dedication and the skill that they demonstrated on this job, I want to publicly commend them for that. The summer season is gone, concerts, Nashville, night out, summer camps all those things that kept us busy all summer are behind us now, it was a very successful summer. As you heard celebrate North Arlington is coming up at the end of the month and then we'll flow right to Halloween and then before you know it, the lights

will be on the Christmas tree, so stay tuned to our website there's a lot going on and we'll keep adding to it and we'll try to keep everybody informed of what's happening. One significant detour that's coming up at the end of the month, actually next week from the 18th to the 25th on Valley Brook Ave, there's a repair which is going to be made what was the old Disposal Road. I can't seem to get good information from the County; this is not our job but it certainly will affect everybody going down to DPW or wants to go down into that area. The railroad track on Valley Brook Ave will be closed.

Councilwoman Bocchino: So you can't come through Valley Brook Ave?

Borough Administrator: Yes, it will be probably closed it will be posted and we will put something on the website to make everybody know what's going on.

Mayor Pronti: I need clarification on the fact that there's no trucks allowed on that road and that sign was put up by the NJSEA in reference to us wanting to put a warehouse facility there, they stressed that trucks cannot be put there. They had the aviation group, the bird watchers, the terrapins all the different nature groups were all out there all up in arms. If they are planning on bringing trucks down there we're going to have to tell them that they're going to have to find another means.

Borough Administrator: I can't even get a clear answer as to exactly where the construction's going to be.

Mayor Pronti: They sent that to me today; they are going to be blocking off the roadway at the railroad tracks down at the bottom right outside of the conservation center. In order to get in and out of there, there's going to have to be truck traffic somewhere.

Borough Administrator: They are going to have a post all the way up to Schuyler Ave.

Mayor Pronti: There is going to be posts on Orient Way, Schuyler Ave and Valley Brook Ave.

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT: I am going to start with our favorite subject that's 500 Belleville Turnpike, I am starting to get nightmares about getting flooded with water or getting water to the site, as you requested we asked our construction code official to speak to the owner of 470 and to the real estate broker. They both refused to allow access across their site to put the water line to 500, we met with Mr. Pearce to talk about what the next steps would be to do a condemnation of easement and Mr. Pearce gave me an outline of what the next steps would be, but he made it very clear that it could be a very long period. I went back to Seagis, spoke to their engineer and spoke to the development director and they have come up as late as yesterday afternoon with a solution to their water problem. The waterline instead of going 20 yards will proceed from self-storage facility. That's exactly the recommendation around 470 and then into 500. So that will probably have to be reviewed by our engineers and our engineers and our construction code official, but they finally have an alternative to get the water and construction then can start. Lastly I can happily report that the Seagis Company did submit their plans or amend it plan for the planning board to review and hopefully approval for a small pen area. The manufacture that's going to take over that site upon completion does a lot pipe work in terms of

fire, fire suppression work throughout New Jersey, so that's been submitted to the construction code official. I'm hoping that it be presented very quickly to the planning board and finally I don't have to report about 500 Belleville Turnpike anymore. In terms of the BCUA redevelopment plan we've had a lot of meetings with the provisional redeveloper for the site. I am not sure how much people are aware that you were able to appoint this provisional that is going to provide you the road in and out from the BCUA site and it's taking internal roadways to get to the Belleville Turnpike, in fact you did find someone that will in fact not use Schuyler Ave.

Mayor Pronti: Didn't they tell us that was impossible Mr. Ceberio?

Robert Ceberio: Yes, sir that's been underway, I know that he has been reaching out to Councilwoman Bocchino regarding a couple of things that potentially will be part of this development. We have spoken about the possibility of a data center taking into consideration the new substation that's there where they can tap in directly, so there's not any difficulty and anything that's going to be built on that site as a data center because data center only needs like five or six people to outrun the whole operation. So there's not a lot of even vehicles, passenger vehicles going in and out and if he's going to use anything in terms of warehousing it's going to be either last mile, but only with panel trucks which will then be going out the Belleville Turnpike, so you've kept your promise on finding someone that's willing to take the money out of their pocket. I'm sure there will be a lot more information coming forward as to what this is going to look like and how it's going to lay out. I'm sure you'll finalize what you've been discussing and that is an expansion of your recreational facilities for the municipality. On the Melrays site we've received a couple of calls in particular people that wanted to put either residential after the discussion that we've had residential uses on the site at the ratio of what has been amended in terms of the redevelopment plan would require a 70 foot building, which is not allowed in your amended redevelopment plan, we do have other people that may be interested in the retail, just a retail component. The owners of the site have suggested 3 or 4 things. I know that we have been contacted by the owner regarding a meeting with the owner and their attorney, which we advise Mr. Pearce that the attorney would be at that meeting. Lastly in terms in terms of the senior housing, I started that senior housing when Joe Bianchi was here. The first year we gave questionnaires to the senior's citizen as to whether they had an interest in senior housing. We proceeded to go to the county to get tax exempt bonding status and we were then told we're not sure that you can allow North Arlington residents in here, it has to be within region one of the affordable housing area and region one is Bergen, Hudson and Sussex. So you had no control over who was going to get there. Then we tried a quote, lease purchase approach which meant the town was going to pay for it, with interest from a private equity place, but that would impact your operating budget. This project which after the first RFP this is the fourth RFP we put a private entity is building it. We're providing the land we do get a service charge for the property to the town for the first time because this town is owned property and as the Mayor introduced. I just wanted to give you a little bit of history on this project.

Mayor Pronti: That's something we were told we would not be able to do without the help of the County or the State?

Robert Ceberio: Correct.

Mayor Pronti: The County and the State were unable to provide us with any type of a system that was beneficial to the residents of our town. Anything that State or the County would've done would've cost the town and the taxpayer's money, so we told them we'll find a way to do it and we did and it's going to happen. It's hard for some people to understand, but that's the way it's going to be.

Roberto Ceberio: The one thing I want to finish with is our redevelopment agreement requires the developer North Arlington residence first and then go in adjoining municipalities, so he's committed to that.

ENGINEERS REPORT- BRIAN INTINDOLA: Good Evening Mayor and Council, Daniel Morris Park fountain, the fountain is being fabricated in California. It's going to be shipped the contractor is mobilizing next week to start the plumbing and the subsurface work. In addition to that all weather hose bid is going to be installed to help wet the bocce ball court, there's always someone there which is nice and because there's particular DEP requirements. When you clean out the fountain it can't go into the river, it has to go into a sanitary line.

Mayor Pronti: Would it clean the river if it went in?

Engineer Brian Intindola: What they're afraid of that is as strange as it may sound the fountain water is considered effluent and therefore has to go into the sanitary system. If it was in the center of North Arlington, maybe that would not be a connection that we would do but because it's right on the river and the NJDEP is very careful to monitor it, they're waiting for me to put this fountain in and not put it into the sanitary line. It's a little bit more involved than we want it to be, but that's how we have to do it, but as far as we know that the shipping date is holding the contractor is in place, the plumbing permit has been secured and we have direction on where we want to go with that installation. Similarly legends basketball court it will have a right sized Viking logo in the center that stencil is made on computer cutting like a laser machine that is in the cutter, this week and as soon as they get that, they lay it out on the court and then they will apply the thermos white paint as well as the layout for the names that we're putting there. As per the stencil that was approved, that stencil is also been made and then those two names and the benches all ready to go.

Mayor Pronti: Are there any temperature restrictions on doing that?

Engineer Brian Intindola: No, because it's thermos which comes out hot from the cattle, if it was acrylic you would have to be at 60 degrees and rising and that's not a concern because we are doing a thermoplastic application. Leonard Place the bids were opened, we did separate bid for that because of CD beach constraints that's awarded and we will be doing the pre-con next week and then the rest of the road program. We are badgering the NJDOT to get our review done so we can get it out and get that out to bid. But as far as we are concerned it's ready to go and we'll get that out to bid as soon as possible. On another note you have successfully applied for and received a grant to stabilize the bulkhead in the area of Daniel Morris Park because it's a federal process, your Borough engineer cannot design it. It has to go to a federal process, so the administrator and myself we put together a bid package for qualified design engineers to respond to, those will be received on the 24th and we will evaluate them as well as with our State partners at the DCA we've been working hand in glove with them on the RFP on the backend and the advertisement and on

the qualifications required, so that's all done and hopefully we get a qualified engineer to do that work to get the bulkhead and stabilization along with the other work we want to do with Daniel Morris Park.

Administrator Steve Lo Iacono: It's the most ridiculous, complicated, stupid, wasteful program you could possibly imagine. I can't believe how much time we're wasting; I tried to comply with the federal government.

Engineer Brian Intindola: The process is for like, say you're buying a submarine for billions of dollars, we are not that and that process is super complicated for small scale projects. So that's where we are, of course we are pressing the manufacture I have them on speed dial the manufacture rep in California, It's moving along and they are ready to pack it up and send it out. It hasn't been shipped yet; the shipping date is like the 13th something like that.

Mayor Pronti: What's the time frame?

Engineer Brian Intindola: It takes like six days to make it across, when the fountain comes all the infrastructure will be ready to plug it in, that's what our goal is.

Mayor Pronti: They know how to go with the orange marking?

Engineer Brian Intindola: Yes, this plan was when we met with you two Friday's ago, this was the plan we revised.

Mayor Pronti: Originally there was two different plans and then when I went there, they had it marked in a third plan that wasn't one of the first two.

Engineer Brian Intindola: Everything is good now that gives you a better view shed and that's one of the original locations that we believe if you do have a crowd you could assemble in that larger area.

Mayor Pronti: That is a great spot, you see it from all angles, you see it driving down Arlington Boulevard, you'll see it from route 21.

Councilwoman Bocchino: Any updates on Macaluso Park?

Engineer Brian Intindola: Yes, Macaluso Park the history of that is that we were going to get it out as fast as possible like in the spring, so we did a solicitation for a contractor that's in co-op to do paving but we felt that it really requires the upgrade it deserves. We are working with some schematic drawing with our landscape team that's way more talented than I am. To lay out a new park and then we will give you estimates for that, we will also identify the grants that are supporting that, there's two or three grants supporting this project and what the anticipated bonding that the Borough Hall would have to take on to do the rest of the project.

Mayor Pronti: We didn't add any features to it, correct?

Engineer Brian Intindola: No, we will have you review it we will look at the park. It's got some vertical challenges, but sometimes if you are a talented designer you can make that part of the project. I am not a landscaper designer but we will get that done so in the next week or so the expectation for you guys is to see some schematic drawings of what Macaluso could be.

Councilman Karcic: Last month we approved to start doing schematic fir the old comcast property and turning that into a better functioning parking lot. Do we know when we can expect to kind of have some preliminary drawings on that?

Engineer Brian Intindola: We are going to send it out to you guys; x marks the spot of any building that you may want removed and then we'll lay out the parking accordingly. We want to be sure we got that right because any building that are erased they are not coming back because it's in the floodway and we didn't want to give you a plan that you didn't want. So it was unclear to me what building you want to keep, it's the one right on River Road you can keep or the one in the back you want?

Mayor Pronti: We're looking to keep the one in the back.

Engineer Brian Intindola: The one in the back it's what you want to keep? So you want to keep that covered area, the pavilion area that they have.

Councilman Karcic: The back building is to worry about, it's got an interesting history with the prior tenant. I guess the design parking garage or whatever it was. The garage they designed there was a failure where there was a collapse and to prove that is wasn't their fault they put up that pavilion as a mini mockup of what they did and they did stress testing on it and everything to show that the failure wasn't their fault.

Mayor Pronti: I can tell you this if we were up here when that came through we would have not approved that project.

Councilwoman Sheedy: Do we have a date for Legens Court? Because the hope would be to do the dedication ceremony in October and because we're with celebrate North Arlington and it's going into pumpkin patch we have so many community activities that we're planning and I have to set that date aside so I can contact that family that are coming from out of state.

Engineer Brian Intindola: We see it like 14 days from now from this date you are safe for the first weekend od October when that stencil gets off the machine and cut, I am going to bring it to North Arlington. It's going to be a unique court like you guys want it and it's going to honor the people that you're trying to honor. Ti's really fantastic and the benches are ready to go and the reader boards are in the warehouse of the contractor.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

Cengiz (Jim) Sever – 16 Albert Street: I'm a longtime resident, husband and father of three children. While I am a candidate, I am also a concerned resident and tax payer. I am here tonight to voice my concerns about the policies and practices of the Borough Hall regarding these random tax assessments that are unpopular with most of the homeowners, I speak with and view them as unfair inequitable in particular longtime residents especially seniors and those on fixed incomes are challenged by the spikes in their tax bills. As I have present seen my property tax bill increase as well nobody likes to pay higher taxes, but is the Borough doing all they can to mitigate unnecessary increases, especially when there's a surplus of cash that can be used or applied for immediate tax relief? Are we at the end of the day collecting more tax dollars than necessary to operate the community? It is my understanding that most reevaluations of properties in suburban communities like North Arlington or every 5 to years. Some people have expressed to me that the process disrupts one planning of tax payment and would like to see this modified. It was previously mentioned that veterans in your housing would be taking place shortly. I wanted to find out about dates and dollar amounts to this project, which I've never received a dollar amount for this, regarding proposals to construct a new police facility that have been mentioned, but no timeline or announcement. Can these details be shared or updated at a previous meeting? I know it's not free there's a dollar amount to everything and the dates, everything has a start date, finish date and end date. At a previous meeting the Borough council voted yes to approve an out of court settlement of \$200,000 to a former employee of the library, while the court was made public, what were the circumstances and details of the lawsuit, can the Borough provide details of this case to the public? It seems we have consensus on the idea of creating a seasonal farmer's market as well as construction of a dog park for our residents.

Mayor Pronti: I'm sorry sir can you say that again?

Cengiz (Jim) Sever: A farmer's market and a dog park, there's agreement that we should get that in town....

Mayor Pronti: You're asking us if we're in agreement?

Audience member, John Balwierczak, speaks: He has five minutes Mayor, let him speak.

Mayor Pronti: John, don't talk out of turn. Try to keep yourself somewhat professional.

Audience member, John Balwierczak, continues talking: Let him speak

Mayor Pronti: Stop talking in the meeting. You have children here. I'm not going to tolerate outbursts from you. I know this is very difficult to be in a professional setting here, in an atmosphere where you have to behave yourself so stop talking and sit down. If you wish to be heard, come up to the microphone.

(Discussions between Mayor Pronti and audience member, John Balwierczak, ensue)

Cengiz (Jim) Sever continues: The farmer's market I believe in it and I've heard that the current administration believes in the farmer's market. The dog park, I believe in it and I believe the

current administration believes in it; I am curious, what are your ideas of location? And the cost as well? And last I've seen that you had the two motorcycle police officers and the priest blessed them to make sure they're safe and healthy. But I was surprised the police on the bicycle wasn't there, I know we have him he was at the parade, but I have not seen him since. I was wondering is he ok? He is out and about patrolling, what's his exact status in town?

Virginia Hernandez – 41 Hoover Street: First, we live in a wonderful town, I've gotten a lot of help so far just kind of me reaching out to people in town. I just want to know what programs or resources we might have for a mother and daughter who are going to be homeless on Monday night. At church we raised funds, we've been having her in a hotel, but those funds are kind of running out now. I am going to point out to her to what Allison said for the SNAP benefits, I just want to see what else can be done. If there's anything or you can point me in the right direction in Bergen County. The girl is 15 personally I'm willing to help her out but the mother would still be living out of her car, I have my own kids I feel for her and I can't personally help out in that matter. I would love to help them to kind of stay together and receive the resources that they can. I know that in this town everyone's heart is so big. I've had other people reach out to me, but I want to know what we can do on a higher level. Thank you.

(Mayor Pronti and John Balwierczak ensue discussions.)

George Rosko – 12 Allan Drive: My comment is to answer Virginia. George Bender, myself, Kimmy Kyratzsis, Nancy K and Joe started a Facebook group, it's called North Arlington Gives Back and it's basically to help any North Arlington resident that's having a financial problem any kind of difficulties, it's a charitable organization that we will help out. We had an overwhelming response from the public, the council, not the democrat candidates, about helping and joining. I was amazed at how many people offered to help. The page is there the page is private but just put in for a membership if you're in North Arlington and we know you, we will approve you.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

Councilman Karcic: I'll start with your questions on the senior housing. We don't have a date yet because we are still finalizing the plans down, we've received several interactions where we've gone back and said, hey there was supposed to be a couple of two bedrooms units in them, they're missing, they added them. We've made updates to the parking configurate configuration, entrance and entrance into the facilities. We're making updates to the plans; we're working with the developer directly on making these updates. We just sent the last round of comments over last week, last week with making some changes to the inside of the VFW. We met with them and they said we don't need a kitchen net as big as it is, we want to reduce the kitchenette and increase the office space, these are the details that are being worked out. Once we have formalized plans, final plans that we're all in agreement that this is the vision that we want then it'll go to the planning board and then at that point we will start to have some firm dates as to when the groundbreaking will occur construction will start and projected end time.

Unidentified attendee speaks: Any projections on time for that?

Councilman Karcic: It's up to the developer and their architect on how quickly they turn around the plans, it's about two or three weeks for each (inaudible).

Mayor Pronti: It should have been done by now, if we didn't make the initial changes that we just made it would have been done. But there were a couple of changes that we made to the veteran side of their hall and we made some changes, so we need to update it. We're not just going to do it because this is the date that we want to do it. We're going to do it right and as far as the cost analysis right now, we can go over it with Mr. Ceberio at a later date, but right now it's not costing us anything, zero. If that's a good enough answer for you, it's costing us zero, nothing.

Councilman Karcic: The developer is paying for the cost of the building.

Mayor Pronti: I can't wait to see that in print, the new police building in the other hand is in the works, we are finalizing the plans with the architect and we have it all planned out where once the senior housing goes into effect, once the senior center is moved over that building, then we'll proceed with the new police building, which will be going in the spot of the health department and the current senior center; the health department would then move inside this building, so everything is going to be moved around. Everything is contingent on the other one being built. It's going to be like a quad outside, like a surround township, like a town center out in the back. It's going to be the front of the building facing all towards the center, so everything is going to expand the police building where we are going to have equipment and areas in the police department that we haven't had in a hundred years. These are things that were never available and we are going to bring it to our police department up to speed with where everything is supposed to be. There's no cost analysis on that yet, because we haven't finalized the plans on it yet. But it's going to a relatively expensive project and that's part of a running municipality. You have to expect to spend money to provide the right service to your people and that's what we are looking to do. I am going to answer this other question here. Is everything being done to maintain the taxes? And why don't we use the surplus of cash not used? We had the budget meeting on June 13th or so we had the auditor here going over exactly the question that you asked and it's on our Borough website and the answer is there, it's probably a seven minute recording. So if you want to refer to that, you can read it and you can listen to it and you can do whatever you want. It does explain why we don't use the surplus and why we're using that right now to maintain it, because I specifically asked the auditor should we use the surplus to keep the tax bill lower. But right now we raised the municipal portion of the taxes 1.9% this year, which is the highest increase in the past seven years. It's the highest because of the cost of living, the increase in minimum wage, the cost of everything had been astronomical and we were only raising the taxes 1.9% when everything else has gone up 16%, 18%, other municipalities are raising taxes through the roof. As far as your question on the rolling reassessment, I know there seems to be some type of disconnect where you truly don't understand the process and that's fine because a lot of people don't understand it. I will take the time to explain it to you and what happens on a rolling reassessment, this may not make sense and if it doesn't let me know because I will take time to explain it. In 2017 we went to a rolling reassessment where we hadn't reassessed the taxes in 10 years. So your properties were worth X amount of dollars and you were waiting for the new valuation to come out where they were doing

it every 10 years. Every person who did upgrades in their houses, in a similar house to yours, say your house is valued at \$500,000 and the person down the street has the same house and they have a three bedroom, two bathrooms, a full basement, two garage whatever it's worth \$500,000, they did all kinds of upgrades to their house they got the permits; they did what they had to do. That person is now still paying the same amount of taxes as you until they reassess the properties until they do a reevaluation on that property. You could actually be spending more money on your property taxes for the duration of that 10 year span until they decide to reevaluate the process, you who did not spend all that money and did not do all those improvements to your house are now paying the taxes of the person up the street who increased the value of their home but it hasn't been increased on the tax roll yet because they wait every 10 years to do it. What we do in the meantime is every year they actually physically enter 20% of the residences in this town. They physically enter 20% on a random basis they reevaluate 100% and every year they do a different random 20%. Some people may have been entered twice; some people may never have had an inspector come to the house. It's the way that these things get done and it's the actual proper way, you could look it up on their website, Appraisal Systems, you can exactly see how the procedure works. I know from the stuff that I read and the stuff that I see, I say the people who are giving you information, have no concept of this because it didn't work in the past, people tried different things but every town around us is now going to through this, we were one of the first to do it in 2018, 2017 we did the test. The very first year that we did it in 2018 municipal taxes went down 0.8% because of the reevaluation. After that point. I don't know if your familiar if you know this or not, but the municipal portion of our municipal taxes, the whole tax bill if you take your tax bill and you cut it into three parts, you have 35% that goes towards the municipal part of your town that is police, the municipality, the roads, upgrades, buildings and grounds, DPW. 35% of that bill is going towards that. 55% of your bill is going to the board of education that's for teacher's salaries, upgrades to their buildings whatever they have to do, superintendent salaries, staffing so that's 55%. The other 10% is the county's portion. The county gets 10% of that bill. In the past seven years, from 2018 until 2025 the municipal portion of our bill has gone up 8%. Over that same period of time, the board of education portion of your bill which is 55% has gone up 16% to 18% I believe, those are the numbers. The county numbers have gone up 40%. The municipal portion 8%. So when anybody that says that we are not doing our part to maintain our taxes and to keep our taxes down are simply making a political gesture to fool people who otherwise can't look that up themselves. They can clearly come to me and ask and I will sit here and I will explain that all day long, so I hope that clarifies your question. I hope it makes sense. If you need further on that, you can reach out to Mr. Lo Iacono and we can give you the references where you could look up the different numbers, I can put you in touch with our auditor.

Unidentified attendee speaks: You got marble, you got ceramic they are all different values, but it's still a floor. If you've got a two bedroom, ten bedroom it makes a difference. You got one kitchen and two kitchens it makes a difference, if you put gold paint on the walls it's not going to make the value go up.

Mayor Pronti: We're not appraisers, sir, we're the municipal government. If you take out a permit for any type of an upgrade to your home it increases the value of your home. So what they do when they come in and analyze your home, I am going to take the time and explain it to you. When you take out any type of permit or you do an upgrade to your home, the appraiser comes in and they mark off on their sheet kitchen - new, old or exceptional. I think those are the three choices there's

three choices you have and they grade the property value on those three selections. If you go into a house, I've had people call me up and say that the appraiser came in and he told me, my kitchen was average and they were offended. I said 'what do you care, he's not your interior decorator'. They were complaining that they said it was average, they said they paid \$40,000 and they called it average, if you're not using different things like quartz, and like you said, marble, they will grade it on that, It's a simple formula that they use. They will also explain it to you, on their website you can read it up on it.

Councilwoman Sheedy: I want to point out just by looking at it real quick, as you were talking I went to the NA connect app where you can easily go on and see that tax records and I can see that your home, my home comparable nothing major differences between our homes. The full disclosure you can find it yourself; I am looking my taxes went up, it wasn't even a thousand dollars for the entire year so it's not a lot of money. But what did your public service bill go up? Because my public service bill went up about a hundred dollars a month, so if you average all that out its cost of living we have to figure out that everything is going to get more expensive. But if we weren't doing rolling reassessments you would be getting hit at some point, like we did that one year where the 33% tax increase. We're stopping that from happening to people. Where a small increase that you're getting from year to year is stopping. If all of a sudden they decided to raise my taxes this year and if we voted because we needed two 33%, I got to tell you that would put a real hardship on me and my husband.

Audience member, John Balwierzak, speaks (inaudible).

Councilwoman Sheedy: When that tax increase happened, if that happened today, that would create a significant hardship to many of our residents. I'm sure it would be my increase at my job I got a 2% increase in my salary, so it's bad enough I'm struggling even with what they raised my public service, I can't control that. A small percentage. And again, I'm looking at your taxes, John. And they are pretty much the same too. I've looked at these numbers before because I see everyone complaining. I think to myself maybe their houses are so much nicer than mine maybe I am living in a shack on Abbott Place. I'm not living in a shack, we're all living in very comparable houses and the tax increases we have are nothing. If you ask residents in surrounding towns, theirs are going up at least double or triple what ours are going up. Because again responsible fiscal management here.

Councilman Karcic: Just two points, on the rolling reassessment we didn't say we're doing this, right? We had to get the county we had to go out to the state to turn and say, this is the program that we want to implement. When we went to Bergen County the answer the answer that they got was yes and this is what we want every town to do, because otherwise you are reappraising every ten years and then what happens is and I was in that position almost 20 years ago. I remodeled my house at the time of early 2000 housing bubble without the rolling reassessments my house would've been assessed two times what my neighbor's was and not that my house is twice as big, it's just that it would've been assessed on 2000 rates. The market, his house was assessed on the 1990's market, my taxes would've been double his. Now my house wasn't twice as nice it wasn't twice the size, but that's why the rolling reassessments are done. As Dan noted, we were one of the first towns, the last time I checked over 70 towns in the state. Now do the rolling reassessment with, I believe it's like 7 to 8 towns in Bergen County doing it.

(Discussions between Mayor Pronti and John Balwierczak ensue.)

Councilman Karcic continues: North of I4 Bergen County are doing it. My parents own a house in North Bergen; their house was reevaluated the last time was 1988. Thank god that they are senior citizens, they were able to do stuff, but their taxes almost doubled because house hadn't been assessed in over 20 years, so this isn't our opinion this is the professional opinion. This is what the county wants done, this is what the state is pushing to be done because it is more fair and equitable taxing across the board. The other thing is when there is remodeling done and you take out a permit and you close the permit, according to New Jersey State statute, you must reassess the house and reevaluate their tax rating you can't delay it. We are not going to charge you for five years that's against the law, that's against New Jersey statute, so everything we are doing is in line with the statute. The other thing that bothers me Mr. LoIacono and I were talking about this the surplus. I need everybody to understand the surplus is like our savings account, we take money out of our savings account to go into the budget every year. Now the plan is to replace it 100%, but the money coming into town isn't an even line even revenue stream. We have bills to pay in January, February, March we need money to do that, if we don't have tax collections or god forbid there's a national disaster. Think back a couple of years ago to covid when covid hit, we delayed quarterly taxes, why? Because we had money in the bank to do that. Our residents were stressed people weren't working they couldn't make their quarterly taxes on time. We gave them an extension; I want you to go back and look at the papers. Our neighbors Hasbrouck Heights told their residents, you're having a tough time we don't have the money, pay your taxes or we're putting a lien on your house's towns up and down the states. While we were in the biggest crisis of our life time, were threatening residents with lien because they didn't have the money to operate. So it was either (A) pay your taxes or (B) we're not picking up your garbage, we're not fixing your sewers or we are going to make cuts to the police department. It's not done just because we want, we need these funds to ensure the government can work and run for our people.

Mayor Pronti: Let's be honest, it's a possibility on behalf of our accounting firm who advised us that this is the best way to do it and thank god, they did because we have that money in reserve and we keep it there every year. I'm so glad that you asked that question today, I really am because I'd like to clarify it. I want to get things out of the table because especially during campaign time you always get people who say things because they sound good. You can go up and ring somebody's doorbell and say your taxes are going up and it's their fault of course you can say that anybody can say that, but you have to justify why and don't say that. It just so happens that you may come up to somebody who is intelligent at the door and they may ask a question back, now hopefully you'll understand what the answer is and you can see for yourself. I could see you're getting this a bit, at least one of you are understanding. I don't want to get in a debate; I don't want to make everybody late. You want to speak now, I'm giving you a courtesy to go back and forth a little bit to clarify things because I don't want this out there because there are too many misconceptions and that's not fair, it's not fair to the people of North Arlington that someone is telling them that money is going to a waste. I am going to finish up this story right now and tell you that the side to this story lies with the auditor who does the taxes and if you go back to the June 13th meeting it's on our website you go to media and there's the clip, I think it's 47 minutes into the meeting and you can click on it and listen to the entire meeting and it's a professional person that has a degree in finance than I do. I don't know your qualifications, I would assume that

this gentleman knows what he's talking about, I am going to look into some other things because we're really beating that to death. The farmer's market and the dog park, in 2014 myself and Councilwoman Kerry Cruz researched doing a farmer's market in town. It turned out to be that we did not have a feasible location that was attractive enough for a farmer's market to operate. There's not enough parking or room to do it, when we set out to do that we implemented the plan along the riverfront and we came up with an existing plan that's been in place now to include the river walk that actually started before I was even on the council. They started it when spring market went in, it was where Corrados was before that, it was spring market and somehow they had them build a walking path behind the spring market that had to be around 2010, 2011. So when we came up with the idea of the farmer's market we said let's go forward and we'll extend the river walk and put a safe haven from the Arlington Diner all the way to County Park and along that route we would try to incorporate as many businesses as we could, so if a parent wants to drop their child off and make sure that they're getting safely to Count Park, they can do so and take advantage of that. We want a lighted walk path going down there we also had to try to take over abandoned blighted buildings along the way. They were three junkyards there were rundown buildings all over the place, we have since taken over the junkyards and several buildings were in the process of taking over the Golomb gas station we recently purchased the Comcast property and all this is part of the big incorporation of a river walk along the river, along the Passaic River that's going to have parking and different areas which would be able to handle a farmer's market, because we used the original example from 2014. I know a lot of people like to think that they invented the idea of a farmer's market. People have been doing farmer's market since the 18 hundreds, a lot of towns try it other towns fail, Rutherford has been doing theirs up and down it does not bring in money. What it does it will give you an opportunity to draw people into your community who will then help your businesses flourish, so that's the concept of bringing a farmer's market in, anybody who thinks that they're going to become rich over implementing a farmer's market is in la la land, you don't do these things to make money you do these things to better your community and to strengthen the businesses around it and that's a fact.

Councilwoman Sheedy: I want to add something regarding the farmer's market when I reached out to Bergen County probably nine, ten years ago, this is not a new concept. We've all been to a farmer's market we all enjoy them you also have to give vouchers. It's strongly recommended that you give vouchers to your senior citizens and your needy. If you listen to me in every single meeting the SNAP appointments are filled you listen to Mrs. Hernandez get up and tell you sad story. There are hundreds of those, so we would be giving out more vouchers, it seems profitable and I can understand why you would think that. If you talk to other towns which of course we have already talked about this a million times for so many years, it's not profitable but it does do a service to your community. We want our businesses to succeed but profitable. It's not a \$30,000 to \$40,000 business to run a farmer's market. If you want to question me and you want to look into politics, maybe you should call some of your surrounding towns, if you only want to talk to people go to the next their name is Rutherford. There are always complaints no one is ever happy just so you know the people in Rutherford right now are really upset they are mad because they moved the farmer's market down two blocks, so everyone complains. We would love to have one, so just look into the numbers reach out to some of your counter parts and you're going to find out it's really not this huge money making thing and it's not as easy as you think. Farmer's market isn't all over the place because apparently we're taking their farmlands away.

Mayor Pronti: Let me move on to the next topic, because I want to make sure that you're satisfied. The motorcycles we're blessed by the priest, he reached out to the Chief and on behalf of the Archdiocese of Newark who donated the motorcycles they asked the Chief if it would be appropriate and okay if they were to conduct a ceremony to ensure the safety and bless them and we said it was okay. Whatever they want to bless it's okay with us, we could use as much blessing as we can we appreciated and we welcome them in. The dog park are we in favor of it? We have always been in favor of a dog park the only thing is every time I brought up a dog park location I had people that were against the location. So we wanted to put one at a certain location some people don't want to hear the barking, other people are afraid that it's too close to the roadway. We are thinking about doing it fisher field where we have that area. It was between a dog park and a hockey rink and we had people who live on Boston Ave, who were kind of iffy if we wanted to put a dog park there. We also had another location where we were thinking of it down by Disposal Road by the firehouse down there. But then you also have the people on Jason Way who live there and we would also have to go before them. You just can't plop anything and whatever you feel like plopping it in, because there are zoning regulations and there are rules. Every person within a proximity of each proposed location gets notified and gets their say. We have to make sure that we're not pushing something on people who are going to be encroaching in their living space. We've explored so many different things, if someone comes up with new ideas, I love it I welcome new ideas all the time but if it's ridiculous I will tell you it's ridiculous not to say the dog park is. The last thing I have here is the \$200,000 payout for a former library employee that came before our list that we had to vote an Ordinance last month. What happens is we have what's called a joint insurance fund the JIF there were accusations made in the library, nothing that I oversee Mr. Lo Iacono knows more about it and I am going to have him touch on that.

Administrator Mr. Lo Iacono: There was an allegation made against a former employee making allegations against library personnel. The JIF insurance fund handles all these kinds of claims for all the member communities, they determined that to fight the claim could potentially have cost us a million dollars or more and they thought that a \$200,000 settlement was in everybody especially the borough's best interest to settle and get rid of it, so that was a settlement made by the insurance company. It did not cost the Borough anything other than what you know, what happens to your insurance rates? It was just a matter of dollars and cents.

Mayor Pronti: Nor did they ask our opinion in it because they work independently, so we did not get to say, oh wait don't do that.

Administrator: We got a letter that's what they determined.

Mayor Pronti: Unfortunately we don't get a say in those things, it was something that happened internally in the library. It gets referred to the insurance company, which is the proper protocol and the insurance company handles it the way they see it fit, that's why we have insurance.

Attorney Will Fenwick: If you deny the insurance company request for the settlement, then the letter that the Mayor's referring to is called a hammer letter and the insurance company can then deny you coverage of the claim and you would be forced to expend money and suffer potential additional liability in the event you ignore the insurance company.

Administrator: That would come out of our funds, not the insurance funds.

Mayor Pronti: We did it the way that it costs the tax payers the least amount of money and that's the right way to do it. Here, we do what's the best for our tax payers and that's the way we handle things. I believe it's covered now. Virginia, I believe that George is going to work with you on that, if we come up with something else in the meantime Allison and Donna they know a couple of people that might be able to help.

Councilwoman Sheedy: I was just going to say maybe Cheryl Riley might be a good resource, I'm going to look up her number because I don't have it, I will reach out to her I don't like giving out someone's cell number without asking them first but usually she doesn't mind, she's a very generous person. She works with a catholic charity in Newark she will be able to help, she's a great resource and I feel comfortable getting you in touch with her and you can also reach out to Colleen Doherty at the health department, unfortunately North Arlington does not have any rental assistance or anything like that, we can't do that we would be broke. She's really good she does a lot for our seniors.

Mayor Pronti: Mr. Rosko we thank you, for coming forward with your North Arlington gives back program. We think you're doing a great job so far, everything I see is fantastic it's helping people in town, we thank you for that. Mr. Rosko donated from his company illuminated lights for the gazebo on River Road and they were just installed earlier this week. So thank you, he gives back to the community every chance he gets, we definitely appreciate that. Anyone else want to add anything to these very lengthy explanations? It's worth giving the explanations if the answer actually makes its way through. Hopefully people watch the answers online because all of our meetings are recorded and they're all on the website where you can view. I do encourage you to go back and check that other one though, it's the June meeting.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2445

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 187 §9(B) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"
(Repeal of Handicapped Parking Space at 23 Eagle Street)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

ORDINANCE NO. 2446

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW LADDER FIRE TRUCK, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,095,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

ORDINANCE NO. 2447

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$208,000 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASE ONE PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT AND THE PURCHASE OF FIRE PERSONAL ESCAPE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

Administrator Steve Lo Iacono: This ordinance was a direct and real time reference to what you asked about surplus. We were able to buy this equipment without bonding, without borrowing because we had the funds. We've saved all of the interest, all the borrowing costs and all the legal expenses. We can go out and buy this equipment with that money that we've had in our treasury. This was the result of a very strong surplus.

Mayor Pronti: That improves the bond rating and this gives us more power to get a loan in the future.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2444

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 (182 Baltimore Avenue)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2444 TO THE PUBLIC

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

John Graci – 98 Union Place: I happen to know the person that’s there, he’s an older guy in his 80s. He’s got cancer. From what I understand he has a driveway, but his driveway goes down and he keeps his pickup truck there and he has a walker now, so it’s very hard for him now to wiggle into his car, because there’s a wall and it’s very hard for him to get in and out his vehicle. So he was hoping maybe he can get something in front of the house where he can get with his walker.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

R-214-25 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: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic

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

EXCUSED: Fitzhenry

[Executive Session]

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

R-215-25 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF FIREFIGHTER – JARED VELAZQUEZ

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

R-216-25 RESO RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DANIEL MORRIS PARK BENCHES

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

R-217-25 RESO RE: AWARDING OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES PERTAINING TO A TAX APPEAL (BLOCK 73, LOT 2, BLOCK 74, LOTS 4 & 5.01, BLOCK 80, LOT 1)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

R-218-25 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT PERTAINING TO 629 RIDGE ROAD

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

R-219-25 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

R-220-25 RESO RE: AWARDING OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES PERTAINING TO A TAX APPEAL (BLOCK 140, LOT 33.01)

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

R-221-25 RESO RE: AWARDING OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES PERTAINING TO A TAX APPEAL (BLOCK 117, LOTS 6, 7, 8, 9)

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

R-222-25 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH SPG 500 BELLEVILLE TURNPIKE URBAN RENEWAL LLC

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT @ 11:05pm:

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