

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 AT 7:04P.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, Councilwoman DeCicco, 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

Reorganization Meeting – January 6, 2026

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2026

Executive Session – January 15, 2026

Regular Meeting - February 12, 2026

Executive Session – February 12, 2026

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

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

*Abstains from meetings January 6th, January 15th and February 12th

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 86-26 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 98-26 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-86-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS

R-87-26 RESO RE: 2026 BUSINESS LICENSES

R-88-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF FIREFIGHTER

R-89-26 RESO RE: ADOPTING THE BERGEN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

R-90-26 RESO RE: HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER
R-91-26 RESO RE: HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER
R-92-26 RESO RE: INCREASE IN ANNUAL LOSAP CONTRIBUTION
R-93-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF PER-DIEM EMT
R-94-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2026 F-350 4X4 FORD SD 4WD CREW CAB 8' BOX 176" WB SRW XL PICK UP TRUCK WITH ACCESSORIES, FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
R-95-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ACCUMULATED TIME OF POLICE CAPTAIN RUI ENCARNACAO
R-96-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ACCUMULATED TIME OF POLICE OFFICER DAVID BALANTA
R-97-26 RESO RE: TAX OFFICE – REFUND OF MONIES
R-98-26 RESO RE: FIRE DEPARTMENT LOSAP QUALIFICATION FOR 2025

MOTION TO APPROVE

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

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

*Abstains from all Fire Department matters

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY: The rabies clinic was held on March 25th. Dr. Singh from the Rutherford Animal Hospital administered 90 vaccines to dogs and 12 to cats. The Board of Health licensed or renewed 80 licenses. Dr. Singh complimented our team of volunteers for their organized process. Thank you to the Board of Health, NAPD, NAFD and CERT for their efforts. A representative from SNAP will be available at the Senior Center on Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00am. Please call the Board of Health for an appointment. I have the flyer if anyone needs it or knows of someone who needs it. Meetings continue for Celebrate North Arlington. The date is set for Saturday, September 26th. If anyone knows of any groups, organizations or businesses that want to participate, please reach out to me. The Senior Citizens Prom is set for Thursday, April 30th at the Roma. The response has been overwhelming and we are looking at a sold out prom with great food, terrific music and dancing seniors. Access for All will be hosting Autism Awareness Day on Saturday, April 18 between 11am – 1pm at the Senior Center. They will have face painting, story time with Ms. Alyssa, crafts, sensory activities, 360 cameras for photos and snacks. There is also a raffle for a small tricky tray which helps Access for All fund their activities throughout the year.

COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, last week I had the opportunity to go a meeting at the Kearny Town Hall and see a presentation of the lower nine mile Passaic River cleanup, it was very informative. We were told that it's a very long process, and I will keep everyone posted, as I receive any progress on it. Our historical markers have been installed in their proper places to show our residents and people visiting our Borough our rich history and how proud we are of it. As I noted, the copper mines marker is at 500 Belleville Turnpike and Schuyler Ave, the steam engine marker is at Schuyler Ave, and Park Ave. The Parker Mansion is at 125

Bathurst Ave, and the Eckardt farms marker is at Schuyler Ave and Noel Drive. Please go visit them, take a look at them, they look wonderful and we're proud of them. With regards to the DPW, snow season is over, thank god, full winter breakdown and equipment inspection is scheduled, all of our snow related equipment will be cleaned and thoroughly checked before being put away for the summer, that's something we do every year. All softball and baseball fields have been prepared for opening day this Saturday, we have a big representation here. Phase one of our tree planting program begins this month, please look for that. We will be planting more trees as part of Mayor Pronti's beautification program. Tree trimming is also in process this month. Columbus Park, our DPW department has been down there, they've added some new trees and new blue benches, along the riverside and they were installed about two weeks ago, go down there that park looks fantastic, it really looks great. We've got a lot of compliments on it as well. The department is currently working on repairing potholes throughout our Borough, I ask you to please be patient with the crew. They are making these repairs to keep our roads safe for our residents, and I know that sometimes it's an inconvenience, but please be patient with them. Smith Soudy and PSEG will begin milling and paving operations later this month at various Borough locations, and they will be upgrading ADA ramps as well for the disabled and elderly residents. ADA ramps are Americans with Disability Act, and they are very nice, they are red ramps you see and they will be doing them this month as well. I know Councilwoman Sheedy spoke about our senior prom will be held on April 30th at The Roma it's always a fun night we are looking forward to it. The senior group is very excited and they are ready to go, they've been talking about it all year, so that's going to be a great night.

COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY: I want to start by saying thank you, Mayor and Councilman Del Russo for those markers. I've received numerous telephone calls from people that have been residents of North Arlington and they think it's absolutely fantastic that people are driving by and taking pictures of it. I appreciate your efforts on that. Councilman Del Russo also mentioned about paving. A lot of people always ask me all the time; how come we're not paving? Well you can't pave in the cold weather, the only thing you can do is hot patch the potholes, which is a temporary fix and we have to wait until the weather is consistently warm to pave. Mother nature has been teasing us with sporadic warmth and mostly cold days and with April comes spring sports, they will be wearing hoodies and hats, I guess for the next couple of days until such time as Spring really kicks in. But I look forward to seeing our fields filled with baseball, softball and soccer players on the youth level as well, as well as the high school level and I wish all of our athletes a successful season. I'd also like to thank the North Arlington Volunteer Emergency Squad for a profoundly successful Easter egg hunt at Fisher Field this past weekend, they did a great job. I can't tell you that probably over 100 kids were there as for the most part, it's right behind my house so I was able to walk there really fast. Every single municipality in New Jersey is struggling with the high cost of healthcare for our employees, it's no different in North Arlington, luckily we have our own in house expert Mario Karcic when it comes to healthcare. Believe it or not North Arlington has seen it in the past two years 38% uptick in our healthcare cost. New Jersey is not affordable as Governor Murphy said he was trying to do; it doesn't help us when we're trying to construct the budget and it makes it quite challenging. I spoke to one of my colleagues at the Board of Education, they are also struggling with the same increase as they too are in the New Jersey healthcare system as we are. Even with a boost in State aid for the schools, they are also very challenged and they are having difficulty with establishing their budget as they are moving forward too. But again, establishing budgets are very challenging every year, but we don't need 38%

increases from the State of New Jersey dropped in our lap, and really makes it difficult for us to really keep our taxes at a minimum level. I also read today that surprisingly, the average home cost for purchase in New Jersey has increased in 504 of the 564 communities in New Jersey. North Arlington median cost sales for homes in North Arlington rose from \$580,000 to \$603,000 in the last year, that's quite amazing. But it makes me worry for our young folks who are trying to start their lives and look for affordable housing to start a family, so I don't know how they are going to do that. It's a good thing for people that own houses, but it's a bad thing for people that are seeking to purchase houses. The Fire Department is continuing their duties as well and they are continuing their efforts for recruitment and retention and are seeing some success as we appointed a volunteer firefighter tonight. The North Arlington Volunteer Emergency Squad is different as the training required for an EMT certification is very lengthy and there's constant ongoing training for EMT's, it makes recruiting very challenging for them. It's not a North Arlington issue it's an absolute State issue from all the way down to Cape May for the volunteer emergency squads. In my conversations with other community leaders they are having the same issues for recruitment and retention, most are like us hiring per diem paid EMT's as well as full time staff to offset the lack of volunteers being able to service us from 6am to 6pm, I don't blame anyone it's just an epidemic that's happening in New Jersey. The qualifications to become an EMT it's absolutely incredible the training that they have to go through just to become an EMT and ride the rig and they have to do what's called CEU's, continuing education units every single year. If anybody you know in this room looking to volunteer in this town, I would suggest you to send them to the fire house or send them down to the volunteer emergency squad, because they are looking for people. Lastly I just want to mention with the warm weather approaching comes kids playing outside and leaving school, I ask everyone to please drive carefully. It's evident in my back yard at Fisher Field its constant basketball till 9pm and it's fantastic, it's actually music to our ears. That's all I have Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Good Evening everyone, I just want to share that Councilwoman Sheedy and I recently attended the Board of Education meeting, it was really nice to see the winter sports teams being recognized for their winning season, along with the teachers of the year. Congratulations, you make our community very proud. I also want to congratulate the residents who were honored at the Knights of Columbus Shields Award, as citizen of the year. Lastly, a big shout out to the NAVES for putting together such a great Easter egg hunt, it was a huge success, the kids had an amazing time. I truly enjoyed being there with the Mayor and the rest of the Council. That's all I have.

COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO: As a liaison to the technology, I am happy to report there were no issues since my last report. Also, as a liaison to the recreation baseball and softball will kick off this Saturday, we will start with softball the parade will be behind Borough Hall it will start at 9:30am down to Allan Park they will have a small ceremony and then the first game will begin. I encourage everyone to come and march with them or come and see them play. Baseball starts off at 12pm and they go from VFW to the Little League Field and they will also have a small ceremony and I believe their game is a little later in the afternoon. Soccer is in full swing and I just want to wish, all the kids a very safe successful season, as well as their coaches. If you get a chance please go down there and support the kids, they love it. Open gym is still going on, Saturdays at Washington school, so if anyone wants to go relieve some steam go down to the gym. Also the recreation committee is planning the Memorial Day Parade, that's in full swing so some of the past

things from prior years are still the same, the quiet zone which everybody seems to really like for our sensitive residents. Our military banners I will keep the ordering window open for next week, if anyone hasn't been able to get their order in, you still have another week to go. We did get quite a number of new orders this year, so I'm excited about that, we will be seeing a lot more banners around the town this year. Very exciting that one is true to my heart. I want to congratulate on the Resolution we have on consent, we hired two new police officers and I want to wish them well and have them be safe out there. We want to make sure everybody is safe, so congratulations them to and welcome.

COUNCILMAN KARCIC: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, I want to piggyback off what Councilwoman Bocchino said with the hiring of the two new police officers, I have the honor of announcing that we do have three retirements for three officers who have committed their lives and their careers to North Arlington, so I'd like to give a special recognition to Rui Encarnacao, Gary Edwards and Sergeant David Balanta, thank you for everything that you've done and given over the years. Your presence and the way that you showed up for this community day after day has really left a mark on our small town, each of you brought something unique to the job, as you step into this next chapter, I hope you carry our Viking pride and pride in a career well served. We all wish you the ease, joy and well-earned rest that retirement brings. Best of luck to the three of them on a retirement well deserved. As I say every month it's great to see our officers are constantly being trained, constantly being updated and I am just touching on the list of a DUI detection and SFST course, state police bomb threats, swatting training, e-agent training, Bergen County Bomb Squad monthly training, Bergen County Regional SWAT monthly training, initial Alco test operator training, taser instructor training and the list goes on and on. On top of daily meetings, they review changes in case law, criminal law, motor vehicle law, DWI detention. Our officers are constantly being trained. For the month of March our officers assisted members from the Knights of Columbus with an escort from Queen of Peace to Holy Cross Cemetery and they also attended and participated in the North Arlington Senior activity center luncheon, continuing the department efforts to maintain positive relationships with the Borough's senior community. My favorite part of the report for the month of March there were 2,610 calls for service, 1,257 property checks, 327 motor vehicle stops and 1,688 summonses and for the first time I've never seen this so high for arrests 31 people arrested in town for the month of March and it was a variety of things, warrants, DWI, shoplifting, resisting to arrest assault, endangering the welfare of a child and the list goes on. Our officers are out there hard at work protecting our community, that's why we stress every month, if you see something call the police department. We say it month after month and every month there's something new. Call the police department then post it on social media, alert your neighbors, that's great but don't post it on social media three hours after the event when nothing can be investigated. And I know a lot of people when we talk to them, they say I don't want to bother them, that's not a bother, that's their job, that's how they keep the community safe. Objectives for the following month, there's some quality of life enforcement in particular Macaluso and Fisher Field are getting extra checks for disorderly juveniles and drinking in the parks. Continuing enforcement efforts targeting commercial vehicle violations and quality of life issues, including noise complaints, parking violations and related concerns throughout the Borough.

Mayor Pronti: I want to add to that, Mario if I can, what he just said there's extra checks that they do on those areas, those checks come on from our residents voicing their complaints and their

suspensions to the police desk. If you see something, please call the police and they put it into the computer, and then they give special attention areas to those areas. By putting it on Facebook you're just telling people that you're paying attention. People might applaud for you or whatever, but it might not always get the same results that you're looking for. Call the police and these are the things that happen.

Councilman Karcic: Absolutely, like I said call the police, then post it on social media make everybody aware, it's a great thing social media but you have to make that call to the police department first. Traffic safety initiatives, the directed traffic enforcement at Schuyler Ave and Belleville Turnpike focusing specially on speeding violations, DWI enforcement and general traffic safety. Fairmont Ave is getting targeted parking enforcement and then school zone enforcement, continued monitoring and enforcement of traffic and parking violations in school zones. This is to help improve the safety during student arrival and dismissal times. Lastly, this is my favorite initiative that our police Chief has initiated, officers will continue making positive citizen contacts during patrol operations, they will attend and support community events and neighborhood gatherings throughout the Borough. So they are making a big attempt at community policing, getting involved with the community that it's not just they only talk to residents when there's an issue. We want all of our residents to know all of our police officers.

MAYOR PRONTI: Just to touch on a few things that I didn't hear, hope everyone had a great Easter and Happy Passover. This past month a few events, the NA rocks were painted for our Spring theme, so that looks very nice, I know some people look forward to going down there and taking a photo. Getting back to what Councilman Karcic said the Shawn's Crazy Saloon had a car show and it was done in the form of a block party; it was great and well attended. They had to hire a police officer because it was their first one, they didn't know what to expect. The other police officers went down there just to check things out, and it was a great success. I went down there myself, and it was very nice, all the people from the street came out. They were all standing and watching, looking at the antique cars, they had a famous car designer, I am sorry I don't have his name, but he designed this single person car, it was a multi hundred thousand dollar vehicle, it looked almost like the vehicle that broke the land speed record, it was very cool. The Community Shields Awards were this past month. I have to nominate a citizen of the year every year, and I did that again this year. The Knights of Columbus do a great job on that, they do an officer of the year, teacher of the year, firefighter of the year and the list goes on, if you ever get a chance buy a ticket, sit have dinner and watch the community awards being given out. I know we have a past recipient in here; you can stand and wave if you like sir. It's a really nice event, it recognizes all the people in the community, which is nice. This is our town and this is our community, we support one another, go to these things, go to these events see who's getting recognized. Voice your opinion about someone you know who needs to be recognized and these things are really wonderful events that I really encourage people to go to. Our tree program is continuing, if you noticed for those of you who are getting a tree, I got two phone calls today and they asked me why they have blue and yellow lines in front of their house. Those are the utility mark outs to make sure that they don't plant the tree in their water line, because that would make a mess. So if you see those lines in front of the house, nine out of ten times you're either getting work done or you're getting a tree. We've done about 1,300 trees in the last eight to nine years, so we're putting in another 30 trees this round and at the end of the summer we're going to be doing another 20 or 30, so if you know of anybody that's interested in getting a street tree in front of their house, have them reach out to me personally.

I'm making sure that I oversee that. We're also going to be doing a few Earth Day events for this year, I know that's coming up, and I did have a young lady reach out to me. So I believe, Amanda, that you're going to be doing a little bit of the Earth Day and I am going to give you her information, she reached out to me today and she works in one of the local restaurants and we're having a discussion about it and she's very eager to help and we're going to be looking into that. Our newsletter, everyone knows we do a biannual newsletter, which should be coming out the end of April or first week in May. This edition we're going to be doing something a little special on the center fold, we are going to be highlighting our restaurants and our businesses that, because of the World Cup and we want to make sure that the businesses that we have in town get highlighted and they get a little bit of attention. The way I see it there's going to be people coming in from every single country across the globe, and they're going to be looking to attend soccer events, they are going to be going to the stadium and they will be staying close by. They are going to be staying here and I hope they all don't stay in New York, because they call it the New York world cup, but none of it is in New York except the business that these poor people are going to be booking. And then they realize it's going to take them five hours to get over from New York in rush hour traffic. So what I want to do is I want to put a list of our restaurants, we have so many different ethnicities in our town, and the restaurants reflect that, so if there's someone coming here from another country and you want to eat your native cuisine, I want them to have access to where they can get that. So we are going to be doing something nice on the centerfold, and I am going to ask everyone to please share it and do what they have to do to try to get the word out. Not only will that keep people in town, it will make people come to our town, other business would benefit from that and it helps stimulate our economy a little bit. The senior housing project is on target; we're still talking about a groundbreaking in June.

Borough Attorney Randy Pearce: The only thing holding that up is the DEP, other than that we'd have shovels in the ground.

Mayor Pronti: We're always at the mercy of the DEP. So the only thing that would hold it up is the DEP, because as you know, everything on the Passaic River has to be checked by the DEP. That's all I have.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – STEVE LOIACONO: I will brief. We have been talking about the motor vehicle mobile unit will be in town and that's going to be May 12th. Please check out website, all the information will be posted there on the 21st of this month, when they go live you can go there and make your appointment and various services. We are just about complete in making our arrangements. Everyone was talking about the various special events; we are going to do the same thing we did last year. We had to do the summer concerts jointly with Bergen County at the amphitheater in County Park off Jauncey Ave, as we did last year we did three to six. We will have six concerts this year starting the Tuesday right after the 4th of July running through the end of the month in August, except for August 5th which is National Night Out and we will have a separate celebration for that. Last item, I should start out with an apology but I was very hopeful that we would be able to present the budget to this body tonight for introduction, but we are not quite ready yet, so we will be doing that in the next meeting in May, without a doubt this has been the most difficult budget process I have ever gone through and we got a long way to go. It's a tough situation, solid waste, recycling and health benefits alone, those three items alone caused an increase in our budget of about \$2 million. Plus, there is a bunch of other things which is just really

unbelievable to deal with, but we must do so. These are services we need, can't do without and it's challenging, hopefully we will have a budget to work with that will be introduced next meeting next month and hopefully it can get adopted by June. We're not alone, if you read the papers, if you read the papers, it seems that every town is going through the same thing, everyone is suffering, everyone is challenging officials to come up with bigger and better ideas to try to save a few bucks here. That's all I have for tonight.

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ROBERT CEBERIO: Thank you Mayor, and members of the Council, good evening. We've had a lot of contact with us dealing with the Melray's project, specifically two firms were looking at, they did not participate in the auction, but they have reached out to the owner of the property for the purposes of seeing what they could possibly do on that site. We obviously referred the redevelopment plan to them, specifically the parking requirement, and what can or cannot be done as per the required redevelopment plan. I emphasize this in my report, we have dispelled any notion from any developer that this site is conducive to any residential opportunity in the future. We did have some discussions about it, but when I lay out for them what the parking requirement is versus how many apartments they can build, that normally ends the conversation there. What everyone fails to realize, especially on the Melray's site, the property is very shallow. Most of the properties on the southern end of Ridge Road, the properties are shallow, so it's very limited what you can do or cannot do on that site.

Mayor Pronti: It doesn't help that you have people surfing on social media, telling everyone that there's housing going in. It gives investors an opportunity to come out here and test the waters and say, "well I read on Facebook that you said that there's a six story building going in there". And it's frustrating to see the misinformation that's constantly being put out. It just causes people to go out of their way to get told that, no you can't do that, so just to make that clear.

Robert Ceberio: It's very clear, and that's why when I wrote my report to you, I used all caps in terms of dispelling that concept or idea that the Melray's site is going to have 100 units of housing. Which would ultimately mean that there would have to be hundreds of parking spaces that would go with such a site. The discussions have focused on the retail commercial component, some of the questions also that I've been asked is what can be done on the second floor of the building, and what is allowed if anything, in particular, the area, the air rights that were sold over the municipal parking lot. So there's a lot of questions regarding that site, which my understanding is a pretty large area. In terms of Porete Ave, thank you Mr. Mayor for sending the North Arlington resident to me, I think that's a great project. Let me explain to everyone why I am meeting anyone who wants to go out, I'm out meeting that individual on Tuesday at 9:30am, he's looking to purchase four to five acres of property on Porete Ave, for purpose of creating what we call a refrigerated warehouse, but it's a little bit different and they develop different sizes, as we discussed before it's broken up like a storage facility but for refrigeration. If you wanted 5,000 square feet, if you had a warehouse, the last mile type of development where a big truck would drop off whatever needed to stay cold or refrigerated, would drop off there and it would be distributed, for instance to fast food places. I did a lot of research on it and I love this project, to be honest with you. We are getting together, and they like to own the property and from my perspective a normal refrigerated warehouse is a great retable, and to have these many components it's a great project. Thank you, for forwarding it to me.

Mayor Pronti: Isn't that similar to what we have at 12 Porete Ave?

Robert Ceberio: Yes, a little bit. But it's very unique, it's a new product in the industry, where it's for refrigerated product, it's the last mile drop off and delivery. So you're dealing with a lot of trucks very smaller trucks that would go to Wendy's or a McDonalds and making deliveries there, or to a local restaurant. I think it's a great project, and I am going to do my best to get it here in North Arlington.

Mayor Pronti: The way I see that is that we would have the freshest seafood in our area if we do have that, so I think that's a plus.

Robert Ceberio: Now regarding 29 Porete Ave, we're working very hard with the owners there to the point that our last meeting, it was discussed whether they proceed to do not only the cleanup, which they're required to any which way and to expand the warehouse, tear down that garage area so it's not encumbering any space on Porete Ave, which in fact is better to build new, which is an interesting concept that we are working with them on as to determine which is the better way doing this. If they build new it probably would be better rather than trying to retrofit the existing building. And on parking we have had some preliminary discussions with the redevelopment committee of the board, and we're still working on that, and we're hopeful to have another report back to the redevelopment committee by next month.

Councilwoman Bocchino: When are you meeting?

Robert Ceberio: Next Tuesday at 9:30am down at Porete Ave.

ENGINEERS REPORT BRIAN INTINDOLA: We are heading into spring paving season and, as Councilman Karcic and Del Russo said, there will be a lot of paving going on in the next couple of weeks because the Borough has its own road paving program, and in coordinating with the administrator and Mark Cunningham at the DPW, we were able to swap with PSEG and with Passaic Valley Water so that streets that would've gotten half- paved are getting full paved, and the streets that are getting half paved absolutely have to be half paved, like Arlington Blvd because it was so long that we couldn't do a swap with that. We didn't want to have the trench not restored and wait for another road program to catch up with it. So that we worked on through the winter to get those figured out, and that's moving forward. We did the asbestos assessment for the former Comcast property. Unfortunately, some of the interior panels are made out of a substance called transite, which is like an old fashioned asbestos board. That has to be removed separately before we move forward with demolition and we are reaching out on behalf of the Borough for co-op contractors that are certified by the State to do this work. There is some unclarity in the co-op right now that there is a State law that is under consideration that time and material co-op contractors or contracts are under review and currently suspended. But we think they're to get a determination in the next few weeks to see if that can move forward. Worst case, not worst case, but it may have to be Bid out just for the asbestos removal, and that's something we can put together rather quickly. We are done with the survey for Macaluso Park and was going to start with the concept plans, as we spoke before we'll present any concepts that we have to the Mayor and the Council for their input. Recently the fields were groomed for your eight year contracts, they are still under eight year contracts, and Applied was there yesterday and there needs to be some touch- up on the Allen

Park pitcher's takeoff area, and we are going to revisit that tomorrow and see what we need to do for a slight rebuild. This is where we are with our engineering activities.

Mayor Pronti: Have they updated that pitching area where they've come with any type of new solutions? Because it seems to be an ongoing problem throughout the State or throughout the Country with the dragging, you know.

Brian Intindola: Right now as the synthetic turf industry has evolved, they recognized that the girls' softball takeoff area always has to be touched up the way the girls pivot or the woman pivot. The solution for that is that you've got a great team of coaches that tend to it, but the newer solution is no infill with a pad underneath, is the next generation. We are looking to see if that could be done to reskin Allan Park, just on the infield, and there's no infill, and it's denser, and it's easier to replace as well. We will report on that, it's not due for that yet, but i might be able to do that area for the pitcher circle. We just installed it in another town, and we are getting a good review on that so far, we will see how it wears off after one season, but so far so good.

Mayor Pronti: Because our softball pitching area is getting better and better.

PRESENTATION

Stipend Payments to the Volunteer Youth Recreation Leagues/Associations

Jimmy Herrmann, Recreation Director: I just want to say thank you on behalf of the recreation department. I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for their continued support. I'd also like to thank EMS, fire department and the police department for their continued support for all the different issues that we may come across throughout the season. They've always been there, they've always been responsive and it's always appreciated and it doesn't go unnoticed. Again, thank you, to the Mayor and Council and the Borough Administrator for all their support for the programs within the Borough.

Mayor Pronti: Here are the presidents or representatives of our Executive Board but the volunteers of the borough are the ones that are really the lifeblood of our recreation program. This is volunteer staff, these people do not get paid, they take care of their kids, your kids and everybody else's kids and they deal with the angry parents on top of it. There's no compensation except they walk away with their dignity and a smile at the end of the season. So keep doing what you do and we'll continue to help, and keep doing a great job, and keep making our programs better.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

Margaret Nichols – 48 5th Street: With the passing of the last two generations I now have the title of being the Eckardt matriarch. So, on behalf of our family we would like to extend a thank you to the Mayor and Council, with special thanks to Councilman Kirk Del Russo, for selecting our family homestead to be noted as an historic landmark and have a signpost designating it. This signpost signifies more than just what is now a mound of hills, valleys, and dirt field it immortalizes

the marriage of George and Martha Eckardt settling in North Arlington which resulted in the birth of 5 children. It immortalizes the dairy farm George was the proprietor of which became a family owned business that served the people in the North Arlington community. It immortalizes the time of the Great Depression when people were out of work with no income but George continued to deliver milk to them taking the loss of revenue out of his own pocket so no family would go without nourishment. It immortalizes the time when George's son was drafted into the military during World War 11 and could have received a deferment due to being in the family milk business but chose not to be deferred and go to war for his county. Sadly he became the first boy from North Arlington to lose his life when he was killed on D-Day at Omaha Beach. And mostly it immortalizes a fateful day in April of 1963 when George was found dead of a massive heart attack while working in the milk house. The line at the funeral home wrapped around the block with many people telling stories about the compassion and generosity of George delivering milk to them daily even with their inability to pay for it, while Martha wrapped up sandwiches to give out to anyone who knocked on their door. They counted their blessings knowing they were fortunate and distributed their stability to anyone in need. He also cared about the safety of the towns people and became the founder and first chief of the Schuyler Fire Department. After George's death Martha continued to run the farm and boarded horses. Years later it became the Meadowlands Riding Center. She passed away in 1975 with the family receiving a proclamation from the town for her dedication as a charter member of the woman's fire auxiliary, a gold star mother and her dedication to the welfare of the town's people. In 1989 with the advancement of technology, new town codes and modern ways of living, farmlands became obsolete and the Eckardt house and land was demolished, but on the final day we toured the grounds one last time digging up a time capsule the Eckardt boys buried as youngsters, and took family pictures on the property, and then it was time to say good-bye. The placing of this signpost has enabled our family and all those who once lived in North Arlington and even newcomers to reflect on a time when life was so very different from the high tech society we now know today. Whatever becomes of the property at 500 Schuyler Ave. in the future, this signpost now marks a place in time when the cows grazed in the open fields and the horses roamed in the grassy green paddocks; a time that will always be known and remembered as the Eckardt Farm, a proud memory that will be forever frozen in time when people worked hard for a living and took care of their neighbors and pride in their community.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

Mayor Pronti: Margaret, I just want to say thank you for bringing that spectacular piece of art, and it kind of sums up exactly why we did this program, and you know a few years back we started recognizing different historical things that were happening or did happen in our community throughout the years. We found out that these things are not taught in schools, the kids in the high school did not know what North Arlington was known for, so we thought by putting something in with the markers and doing little things like this and along with the book that was done a few years back, like the little programs that the library puts out with photos, they do a nice job as well. I would like to make a photo of that as well if we could possibly duplicate it and maybe hang it in one of our rooms in the Borough Hall. It's our history and people need to know about it.

Councilwoman Sheedy: I would like to make a suggestion; would we be able to get a copy of that and put it on the Borough website because that is great history so people can read it along with the picture.

Mayor Pronti: I would love to do that. You touched on everything there and it's wonderful.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2458

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF LICENSE PLATE READERS WITH ACCESSORIES FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2459

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 (68 Fairmount Avenue)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

R-99-26 RESO RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 8:03pm

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 Bocchino

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

[Executive Session]

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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

R-100-26 RESO RE: CHANGE ORDER #1 +9.91% (+\$23,670.51) INCREASE FOR THE DANIEL MORRIS PARK FOUNTAIN PROJECT

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

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