Minutes

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 AT 7:10P.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
Regular Meeting – April 9, 2026
Executive Session – April 9, 2026

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

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 145-26 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 156-26 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-145-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS
R-146-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING INCLUSION IN THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
R-147-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF BERGEN TO SUPERSEDE THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT DATED JULY 1, 2024, AND AMENDMENTS THERETO ESTABLISHING THE BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

R-148-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S FY27 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM

R-149-26 RESO RE: HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER

R-150-26 RESO RE: HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER

R-151-26 RESO RE: COMBINING SEVERAL AUTHORIZATIONS OF BONDS INTO A SINGLE ISSUE AND PRESCRIBING THE DETAILS AND BOND FORM THEREOF FOR $12,175,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS DATED JULY 15, 2026

R-152-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF A NOTICE OF SALE AND THE PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY NOTICE OF SALE AND PRESCRIBING THE FORMS THEREOF FOR $12,175,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, DATED JULY 15, 2026, APPROVING THE PREPARATION, DISTRIBUTION AND EXECUTION OF A PRELIMINARY AND A FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR SUCH BONDS, UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION, COVENANTING TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, AND AUTHORIZING VARIOUS MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTRONIC BIDDING FOR THE BONDS

R-153-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2025 CHEVROLET TAHOE SPORT UTILITY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE BASE VEHICLE WITH BASE OPTIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CANCELLING RESOLUTION # R-231-25

R-154-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION – PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CHECK AND GATE VALVES AT THE NARDA PUMP STATION NORTH ARLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - OTHER EXPENSE $400,000.00

R-155-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF PER-DIEM EMT

R-156-26 RESO RE: AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NJSEA REGARDING THE NORTH ARLINGTON POLICE PISTOL RANGE

MOTION TO APPROVE

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

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO: Good evening, I don't have much today, it's the summer and a lot of people are on vacation now. The rec commission department had a meeting last week on Thursday not much going on, everybody is enjoying the summer what's left of it. As far as technology the storm that we just had on July 3rd, it had a power surge that knocked out the network switch that controls the phones, the security cameras and internet network access in the detective bureau at the construction department, it was repaired by noon on July 6th, and I big thank you, to Michael for fixing that. That was the only downside we had to the storm. That's all I have for today Mayor.

COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY: Board of health reminder there's a blood drive next Monday, July 13, between 3-7 pm in the senior center. Flyer with link on borough website to register. SNAP will be in the senior center, Tuesday, July 14 between 10am – 12pm. Appointments are strongly recommended and can be made by calling the Board of Health. The summer recreation program started this week. Unfortunately we started with two days of rain but the counselors were able to keep the kids entertained with fun and exciting indoor activities. We have partnered with the Bergen County Health Department and they will be presenting to our program Summer Safety which is a kid friendly session that explains tick & mosquito education, sun safety, hydration awareness and water safety basics. All of this will be done through age appropriate explanations. Thank you, to Colleen Doherty for helping set this up. We are still accepting registration for the next five weeks if anyone is still interested.

COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO: The Mayor and I took our seniors on the annual trip to Atlantic City last month, as usual we had a fantastic time, some won, some lost, but everyone enjoyed the trip. I'd like to thank our Borough businesses who donated gifts and certificates for our seniors to win, that was very gracious of them and they do that year in year out. On our way back home they were asking already if we can do this again, so they really enjoy that trip. With regards to our DPW department, the summer help program started this past Monday. The program teaches our Borough youth responsibilities as well as work ethic and gives them a chance to earn some money during the summer break from school. It's a very good summer program and I love to see it happen every year. The storm this past Friday wrecked our Borough as many as you all know, seven trees had to be removed off structures. There were many utility wires damaged and complete uprooting of many trees, a crane services had to be called in to remove or secure the damaged trees to keep our residents safe. There were 100 plus damaged trees, 70 mile an hour winds caused debris all over our streets. Our department continues to clean up the removal of debris in order to clean the Borough's streets. On another note the department power washed and painted the gazebo on River Road by the rocks, if you get a chance please drive by it looks fantastic, they do it every so often to keep it up. They also power washed the sidewalks at Daniel Morris Park, and they keep them clean as well. In our normal scope of work, blacktop repairs continue as required, as well as our daily maintenance work throughout the Borough and they have their jobs to do every day, so when a storm like this hit they still have to do their daily work routine as well. Prior to Tuesday's concert our crew also assisted the county workers with cleanup for the concert, because the county park was also pretty well damaged with trees and debris. That's all I have Mayor.

COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY: I want to congratulate our new police hires another further example of our commitment to public safety in this town. It seems every meeting for the last couple of months, we're promoting officers or hiring police officers, and it's a perfect example of the fact that we're committed to our community and public safety. As councilman Del Russo reported, we had two wicked rain events with high winds in two days affecting the entire state of New Jersey, it wrecked from Cape May to Mahwah and North Arlington was not speared. Residents experienced power outages, trees down, power line downs, flooding, loss of Wi-Fi as a result of power optic down. Not to mention the amount of debris in the way of trash, leaves and small branches and bushes littering the entire Borough from street to street, north to south, east to west. With that comes residents call for assistance and activated alarms as a result of the above mentioned events. For each event police, fire and EMS are dispatched with the DPW as well in some cases. North Arlington fire department responded to 22 calls in three hours and 25 in seven

hours, including one mutual aid in Lyndhurst and some of these calls were coming in simultaneously. Just to let you know the fire department receives set calls for help, the incident commander then dispatches his unit to each call, after the fire or threat arrives on the scene, he conducts an inspection consisting of safety measures for the affected residents. Then he dispatches other units to multiple calls at the same exact time, sending one engine there, some calls are more important than others. The commander on that particular scene will do an assessment and the Chief at the exact same time says "okay" this is more important these people are safe. We are going to move on to the next call". Some calls do not require further actions from the fire department, other requires more attention and investigation for safety measures. Others end up being a real hazard for people and property. One incident tuned into a real house fire with the fire in the walls as a result of a lightning strike or a power surge, they just don't know yet, which is usually created by a transformer explosion. North Arlington was not alone getting additional help from surrounding units, it's difficult as surrounding towns have the same issues at the same time. If you have elderly neighbors during events like this, knock on their doors just to make sure they are okay, make sure they have power and if they don't have power we will try to figure something out, we have measures to help these people. It's our responsibility as a community to check on our friends, family and neighbors, so I urge everybody to do that. I like to personally commend our NAPD, FD, EMS and our DPW for a job well done. I also want to thank our police dispatcher for handling hundreds of calls for help at the exact same time. Mayor our State of New Jersey state budget was introduced and passed. The 2026 budget is 900 pages long, dropped on the laps of the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly only hours before the vote. There's not a soul in their chamber had the ability to read this budget entirely, I don't care what they say, no one sat down and read these 900 pages. But it passed along party lines, and that's exactly what happened. There was a 100 page document that summarized the budget that I read that was pretty easy to do. What they left out was the tax increase, which is the interesting part, they left out the $47 million in new and increased taxes. In almost every single fee the state charges, a fee for licenses fee hunters, a fee for a licenses fee for fishing, a licenses fee for construction, developers you name it, every single fee was increased by 30% don't you think that affects the person on the other end, being the taxpayer? 30% is a lot of money. On that note Mr. Mayor, I hope everyone enjoyed the 4th of July, even though we had some bad weather, and please enjoy the rest of the summer and be safe and have a good time.

COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO: Good evening, everyone. I just want to share that the North Arlington Jr. Vikings program is still looking for players at the age level of juniors and mighty mites. If you know anyone that is interested in signing their kids up, I encourage you to sign them up, our youth program is a huge success in our town, and we want to help our community, have all the kids signed up as possible. It's always great to see more kids get involved, and also the parents volunteering in the concession stand and other things. I did it for the last 10 years and I love it. I also wanted to let you know that the library is having two events on July 14th at 12pm for a pre story time and Monday July 14th at 1pm is kids' crafts academy. If you know anyone that would like to join please see Leo, he is amazing with the kids and he has great workers there, and I know the kids will have a great time there. That's all I have Mayor. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN KARCIC: As you may know we hired two new officers tonight, their start date will officially be July 20th, we look forward swearing them in and getting them working here within the borough. As always I go over the training for the police department, and during roll call, there

were updates to case law, criminal law and motor vehicle law that was always discussed and reviewed. Our officer has attended pedestrian safety enforcement, firearm laws, applicant investigations, bomb squad training, law enforcement, active shooter response, that one always makes me a bit uncomfortable, initial ALCO test operator course, field training and always the Bergen County Regional SWAT training. Officers attended the pre-K ice cream event at Fisher Field. The officers also attended the Veterans Middle School graduation and the high school graduation. Officers also participated and attended in the North Arlington senior activity center luncheon, continuing the department's efforts to maintain positive relationship with the borough senor community, and they were there at the first concert in the park this week. My favorite part is the 2,629 calls for service, 989 property check, 442 vehicle stops, which resulted in 2,501 summonses issued for the month of June, 33 people were arrested, with the two major categories being warrants and assaults. The detective bureau took in 27 new investigations in which 12 of them were closed, there are still 16 open cases. The major of the cases investigated during this period involved theft and burglary. Then objectives for the following month, quality of life enforcement, continuing efforts targeting commercial vehicles violations and quality of life issues, including noise complaints, parking violations and related concerns throughout the borough. Traffic safety initiative focusing on River Road speeding enforcement, Prospect Ave and Stevens Place and Fairmount Ave, stop signs enforcement details, Halsey and Schuyler Ave loud exhaust enforcement and you also have seen around town the digital speed signs notifying you when you are going above the speed limit and also focusing on school zone enforcement with traffic and parking violations within the school zone. They will continue to make positive citizen contact on patrol operations and support community events. Lastly I want to pass along my sincere condolences and share the passing of our crossing guard Jack Joyce, if you knew him he was stationed on Biltmore Ave, by Roosevelt School for many years. He also was a former CERT member, but not only was he a dedicated Borough employee, but he was also the brother in law of our DPW secretary, Peggie Burns. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you, that's all I have Mayor.

MAYOR PRONTI: I was actually going to second that as well Jack Joyce was an employee here and a volunteer, please keep him in your prayers. I have a few things I want to touch on, this past month we had a few things that were newsworthy in town. The pre-K graduation, which Mario touched on, they don't do a pre-K graduation, so the parents association decided to do a graduation for the kids, they reached out to Mr. Lo Iacono and asked if it was okay for them to have it down at Fisher Field and of course we said yes and it was very cute, that's what the parks are for, I made sure I went down there and they all loved it. They all took pictures with me, some of them were taller than me, it was beautiful the way they did it, these parents did such a really nice job putting this thing together they had their hats and little certificates and even the other schools, this was just Washington school that did it, I know kids from Jefferson and Roosevelt were down there as well. We do these parks over, we come up with nice situations, and people just ask and you can use these things. This is what we do. Another point of interest, the oldies in the park for those of you who don't know Tom Cattuci has donated his time and he has been doing every other Saturday morning from 9:30am till 11am down at Daniel Morris Park by the fountain. He does a great job he comes down there and I video tape it and put it on Facebook live, the first week and the reception was great. There are benches down there and some people bring their own chairs. It's really nice and he donates his time to do it, so come down if you're not doing anything and enjoy it. Our NA rocks are decorated for USA 250th anniversary, so we put in five beautiful American flags all

around the NA rocks, which half of them were blown away with the storm and two were recovered and the poles were run over by a car, so it was not a good situation, but there are still flags down there and we will be putting the other ones back up. We did have a resident that ran out to Ridge Road and saved the flags, which I thought it was very commendable and that was very nice, I go the phone call " I saved the flags" I said to them "good job", just be careful, don't get run over by a car. We did the Declaration of Independence reading on the steps of the Borough Hall on the 4th of July at noon, as we do each year, it was very well received we had about 35 people came which is nice, it was very hot and warm. I was surprised we had that many people venture out, but it was very nice. We video that as well, make people aware, you get a lot of kids who really don't know what it's about, we try to talk to them for a little bit and let them know why exactly we are there, what it represents and we enjoy that. We had a few warm days these past few weeks, so what we did we set up our cooling station through the police department and it's in the senior center. Anyone wishing to be seen in there or need a little time, if your air conditioner goes out, you don't have access to a air conditioning, we make sure that when the temperatures exceed a certain temperature or humidity we make sura that the senior center is open to our residents or visitor, or anyone for that matter, coming through North Arlington and not feeling well or needing to cool off, stop in the police department, then they will allow you to accesses the cooling station, which is a very important thing especially when you have seniors in your neighborhood just let them if they are ever in those situations. Please contact the police department and we are there for you. We had the awful storm, as everyone mentioned, we had 100 Borough trees affected by that storm, not destroyed but 100 were affected, whether it was branches off, leaves removed or whatever it was. Our DPW was out there working around the clock for the next four nights after that, days and nights. They are still out there and actually they got it cleaned up and I'll tell you they did an excellent job. Tomorrow night I have to attend and I am proud to attend, the 75th anniversary dinner at Knights of Columbus, which I am a member in town, I am invited every year to their events and I graciously accept and I support them as much as possible. They are a very good organization, they usually do a can drive when they do this, so when you come in if you don't have a non-perishable to donate, they make you go back home to get it, they are on the ball with this kind of things. I had three major discussions this past week, which you are going to hear about probably later on in the meeting. We had a lot of discussions on the Comcast property lot, which is a parking lot down on River Road, which is going to be the parking for Rip Collins Field and it's the matter of getting the demolition approved for that. So we are in the process of doing that, I am trying and pushing for this to be done before the football season begins, so when people go down there they don't park in front of Angela's house, because she will call me to complaint. The other thing id the senior and veterans housing, which we've been discussing for quite some time. The application was sent this past week and everything should be on the ball with that and ready to go. We are no accepting people on the list yet; I get phone calls all the time. The day we break ground on that project is when we are going to start the list, I know everybody is anxious to get on the list and we are working diligently to get this thing done. There were slowdowns from the DEP and Mr. Ceberio will touch on that a little bit more. We got good news on the Comcast, we got good news on the senior and veterans housing, and we also had some pretty in-depth conversation regarding the Ridge Road parking situation. We met with a couple of people who have different ideas, different concepts for how we're going to improve that, we came up with two very good solutions that may make a lot of people very happy very soon. So we are going to be working on that. Thant's all I have for tonight.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT STEVE LO IACONO: I don't really have much to add since everyone has pretty much touched on everything going on. After a couple of months of unstoppable efforts to put this summer stuff together, everything is in place. The summer concerts are on, the camp is open, the work program for the youth is up and running. What I would like to reiterate, what everyone has mentioned about the storm we had over the 4th of July holiday I have to point out how hard our DPW people worked, as well as people from the County we had an extreme amount of trees damage. On Tuesday I took a spin around County Park because our concert was scheduled for Tuesday night, never thought we'd get the concert in that night because the place was a disaster. Our guys got down there, and they cleaned it up and they were able to get the concert on, everyone was safe and happy. They are still working on a couple of trees, we had a couple of trees that went through roofs, one went through a bedroom, luckily no one got hurt. It was a very significant storm and our people worked very hard to deal with it. DPW as well police, Fire, Cert and EMS everybody really chipped in and made it a team effort, I want to recognize that from them. We have National Night Out coming up in August 4th, Chief Horton is working on putting that together and we'll have probably an even bigger and better experience than last year. We just finished talking about the budget at our last meeting and we are trying to plan what the 2027 budget will look like. And we already know, we've been told that these health benefits will go up a minimum of 22% over what we had already experienced this year. Quite frankly I don't know how anyone expects towns like North Arlington to continue to be able to service our employees and keep everybody healthy with these numbers. The premiums have gone up over 60% in the last three years, and we're starting to bump $100,000 a year for the cost of coverage, family coverage in a local government unit, that is absolutely unheard of. It wasn't not too long ago we were paying $8,000 for family coverage, so we already know we have a difficult situation for 2027, even harder than what we had in 2026. We are already working on it and trying to see what we can do, we're obviously going to get some competitive numbers and see what works. The market is really in big trouble right now, and towns like North Arlington have a tough road to hoe to try to keep the cost down, but we are working on it.

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ROBERT CEBERIO: Our report this evening will start with Porete Ave, we continue to work on getting that refrigerated Class A warehouse down on Porete Ave, we are working on the issues in terms of their potential property acquisition, which doesn't seem it's going well in terms of what the property owners are asking for. There is a time frame that they've asked us to live by in terms of trying to get this land acquired, but we are continuing to work on it, because we think it's a great fit for Porete Ave area. Staying on Porete Ave, we sat with the property owners of the Hayward property, to discuss specifically the potential of eliminating any variances that might be required, and specifically the issue of the backyard as it relates to the wall that was put up for 500, which is causing some issues for them. We were in contact with the construction code official he talked to us and talked to the owner regarding the sprinkler system and how to solve the issue of the fire department being able to get through to the back, and it came up with a great solution to that issue, so we did eliminate the variance requirement, and they will be before the planning board very shortly. As the Mayor referenced, we've been working on parking we are trying to develop a long term parking solution for Ridge Road, the Mayor and I spent several days working on calculations and layouts for potential parking. I learned a lot about 24 foot islands; we did a couple of layouts we went back and forth. The Mayor provided some information to us as to what his vision was for this particular area, or several areas. In terms of North Arlington works, we'll be ready to roll that out in

September, we're establishing that for the long term ability to sell North Arlington, not only as an area good for living, but also a great place to work and that we're opening for business, as the Mayor indicated, the Mayor asked if we take a look at the plans that were going to be submitted to the planning board. We indicated that we would monitor that specifically to meet that October deadline, which means that application must be in at the August meeting. They just missed this month's meeting in terms of the submission and what will be doing is asking the planning board, if it so agrees with the plan, to potentially do the resolution the same night upon the approval. Because regardless of what you do, you got a 45 day potential appeal period. So you've directed me to make sure we have a groundbreaking in October.

ENGINEERS REPORT AUGUST MATARAZZO: I want to talk about the sewer emergency on Rutherford Place, this was notified on July 4th we were notified mid-day on July 4th of a sewer backup. The sanitary sewer runs alongside Holy Cross Cemetery, behind the houses along Rutherford Place, so we've engaged with Tanzari Contractor to do CCTV inspection, to jet and clean the sewer line there, as of there we have televising of most of the line leading from the cemetery. There's a small portion of the sanitary sewer that still remains to be clean and televised; we believe that is where the main source of the blockage is. But in terms of the solution to this, we're going to be lining for the entirely of that sewer to prevent any infiltration, any holes in that sewer. And if the blockage can't be repaired, we're going to be looking into rerouting it from the corner of Holy Cross down to Argyle Place. There was another emergency that was identified about a month ago or two months ago at the Narda pump station, we've been monitoring this. As of right now it's stable, but we are engaging with the contractors to get them mobilized and to evaluate all options, and all costs proposals to best value engineer solutions presented and that would be to replace the gate valve and any work necessary to do so within the pump station. Earlier this week myself, the mayor and administrator we met to discuss the Macaluso Park Improvements, the purpose of that meeting was to over the scope of the proposed improvements. In our meeting we looked at the scope, and for the immediate proposal, we're going to be doing new walkways, landscaping and including new shade trees. We're going to be evaluating the existing trees there and seeing what trees might be detrimental to the use of the park. We will be installing new site lighting, we will be touching up on the playground mulching, putting new fencing and some site amenities such as tables. We're looking to be bidding that sometime by mid-September and awarding around the same time. Phase two of that project would be the replacement of the playground equipment, because upon further analysis, the playground equipment is in good condition, but the phase two would be the replacement of that. And then also in that phase two would be the installation of a rubberized playground surfacing and additional site amenities.

Mayor Pronti: What's the proposed timeframe once we get the proposal? The bid done in September, and we get awarded, and we start construction, demo, whatever we have to do. What timeframe are we looking at before completion?

August Matarazzo: I'm looking at a 90 day construction cycle, so if we bid in September, that would bring us to about December, unfortunately that time of the year, you won't see much use of the park.

Mayor Pronti: That's what I was saying I didn't want to do it during the summer, let the kids play there during the summer, so we're going to do it in September, late September. I just want to make

sure we are not drowned out by snowstorms or anything when it gets done this way, it's ready for the following summer.

August Matarazzo: Right, and the fall construction gives us a good window of time to do that because it's before the winter, and it's sort of after that summertime for use of the playground. In addition we had a bis opening for the building demolition for the former Comcast property on River Road. The apparent low bidder was Caravella Demolition. Our review of the bid documents has been submitted for review by the Borough administrator and the Borough attorney. We have our 2025 roadway improvements are in full swing, they mobilized on Locust Ave, for their sidewalk reconstruction, I believe this they will be finished with Locust Ave, I will follow up with the contractor Smith Sondy, to see the next street that they're going to be moving towards. The 2026 roadway improvements, we are currently in the middle of drafting the preliminary plan specifications and estimate for submission to DOT. Hopefully we the permission from DOT to bid relatively shortly and put and put that out for bid by the end of this year as well. Earlier today we had a meeting and it went pretty smoothly; DEP doesn't really see any major issues with our proposed water front project. For most the most part, they quite like what we're proposing along Daniel Morris Park. I don't have any updates on the swings for Allen Park right now, I've reached out a couple of times to the vendor, but they said they will be getting back to us on a price for that, as soon as I get the price for the swing set, I will forward that.

Mayor Pronti: Why is it taking so long to get a price for a swing set?

August Matarazzo: I don't have an answer to that, but I will follow up with them.

Mayor Pronti: Please keep me updated on that.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

Don O'Neill – 13 William Street: I want to bring a few things to the light. I was absolutely amazed and dismayed at the amount of turns and twists I had to make there's so many roads being improved right now, I've had a hard time getting home. It's amazing to see the fact that these roads after the construction are being done at no cost to the taxpayers, thanks to proper planning prevents blank performance. Meaning that the Borough council saw fought to put an ordinance in that basically says "you damage the roads, you replace it" that's fantastic, so thank you. I was made aware by a resident of North Arlington, and it was put up on social media as well about the rolling reassessments, and it was brought to light that this resident whose house has not changed, same as mine hasn't changed, their taxes went down since 2018, it didn't go up, it only went down by a small amount, like $100. That's a pretty amazing thing to say your municipal tax, not the entire tax. School axes went up, county taxes went up, but the municipal tax if you look at your bill, it's made up of different sections. It says municipal tax there; I looked at my own same kind of thing. My school taxes have gone up; my municipal taxes have not gone up at all over all the years. I want to say thank you, to the Mayor and Council and especially to Mr. Lo Iacono for doing the magic that he does, I don't know how he does it but it's amazing. I was told that the Mayor made

a visit to residents down at Jason Way, with councilman Fitzhenry, it was made aware there was a parking situation down there, I was informed by a resident that I know on Jason Way, that after your visit down there and talking to people, that the two apartments that should not be there, were vacant and all the stuff thrown at the curb, I even have images of the stuff that was at the curb, she sent it to me and it's absolutely amazing to be done, so she wants to say thanks to everyone. The comment that Councilman Fitzhenry said about keeping an eye on your neighbors, you won't be surprised how many people that are older that don't have air conditioning or can't afford it, they are in their houses sweaty. Elderly people don't feel the urge to drink; I know this because of my other half's mother has been in the hospital for 15 days for dehydration. This is something to keep an eye out. Thank you, for making everyone aware of that, I really appreciate it. I know there's a lot of concerts in the park going on, please enjoy them, the one that is coming up they are wonderful, the guitarist from that band is actually from North Arlington, so if you have a chance go up there. I forgot to mention the Tuesday after Memorial Day, I got a ticket on my car, so what I did I went down to the Borough Hall, there's my money it's the fact of life. Sometimes we forget, but it's just a necessary for keeping the streets clean. Our DPW thank you, for what they do because they are out there no matter what. Thank you, everyone and have a great weekend.

Carlos Herrera – 36 Front Street: I've been living in this beautiful town for the past 10 years; we are a proud owner of a beautiful property. We've been investing money so we can make it more beautiful than the property was when we bought it. My main reason why I am here is we are having a big concern about the property next door, which is 40 Front Street. That property has been abandoned for the past; we've been living here for the past ten years. I don't know how long before that, I was told that the shingles around the property has asbestos, and we are very concerned about the well-being and the health of our family and everybody else around the neighborhood. Like I said nobody is living in that property, the only family I see is a family of raccoons and other living animals. That's my concern and that's why I am here today. Thank you.

Pedro Lopez – 21 Front Street: I've been there roughly eight and half years now, it's a sewer the house in front of my house, now they have a front that looks like it was added previously, and that has collapsed and you can see the lower corner. Like he said it's the family of raccoons, skunks and rats, I don't want to see that coming in my house. Last time they did the roads, which was a mess because they covered all my pipes and my water pump burnt because it couldn't push the water out because I had to get a hammer and chisel, and make my own hole for the water to finally drain out.

Mayor Pronti: This is a separate matter? When did this happen?

Pedro Lopez: When they covered the roads, about a year and a half ago they came in digging put new gas pipes and everything, they're changing them.

Mayor Pronti: Dis you report that to anyone?

Pedro Lopez: I told the guys that did that, but they didn't care, I mean the company that you hired.

Mayor Pronti: When something like this happens you call right away, you don't have to wait a year and a half and come to a council meeting. Call DPW let them know they monitor all the street

repairs, we have access and if it's an emergency situation just call the police department if you can't get them they will relay a message or put anything through.

Pedro Lopez: We have three holes forming down the street.

Mayor Pronti: Potholes? Report them to the exact same place, DPW, that's the proper way to report, but I'll touch base on that.

Pedro Lopez: And I guess since no one reported it, the road is so high that when it rains the water just goes on the sidewalk, it doesn't really drain down the drainage.

Josie Papile – 40 Arlington Blvd: I am going to say something positive. It was really nice to see DPW cleaning out all the sewers, and they are immaculate, people that live in the corners or anywhere near a corner like I do. I always clean the drain grate off so that things don't fall down, but my neighbors don't. I don't know how to make that a public improvement for us to maintain it ourselves in the meantime, especially now that they are nice and clean, I want to keep it immaculate, I want to say thank you for cleaning them, it made a big difference.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

Mayor Pronti: I want to thank everyone for coming forward with the questions, we encourage that anytime anyone has an issue, we always encourage people to come forward with any questions or comments. Let me go in order. Mr. O'Neill came up regarding the stability of the municipal portions of the taxes. If you were here two months ago, we had our auditor come in for this year's budget, and he did a graph on the increases of the taxations for the past eight years and I know that a couple of people were here for that, and it shows how stable we've been in that municipal level. If you take the average, now, I know you said that someone's went down, that's not a common occurrence to go down, some went down, others went up. The taxation itself is increased incrementally each year, so when they go down, it's due to the re assessments, which means your property is being reassessed to it's true value each year. The amount raised in taxation may have gone up, but the person's taxes may have gone down because now they're valued at the true of their home. So there's a lot of different ways, I really wish everyone was educated in that because there's so much misconception and you just have people that don't like it because they don't understand it. I am glad you brought it up, thank you. As for Jason Way, that's good news, there was always an indication that there were illegal apartments, and we react to every notice that we receive about people saying that there's illegal apartments, because that's the worst thing that could happen in your neighborhood. You have a person renting out a basement, now that person is collecting rent, so technically they are paying less taxes than you because now they are collecting more money. They're also taking up your parking spot in your street, I encourage everyone to report those things whenever they see them. We do our part, I pass it along to Mr. Lo Iacono and to our code enforcement officials who do investigate these things. Unfortunately, what happens is the law does not allow us to enter these premises without a notice, advanced notice. We don't have that authority, but when we go in there, I shouldn't we because I don't get involved in those things

because that's not my job. It's illegal to have a family member living in your basement. So it's such a tough time getting these things investigated. What we did on Jason Way, I explained to everyone they wanted permanent parking and I said we will investigate it if you want permanent parking, because there's a problem they only have a certain parking spaces, which is the same thing I did on Front Street, about 14 years ago I had everybody come in and meet because there's 11 parking spots on Front Street, and unfortunately I didn't build Front Street, because I would have built it differently. So what I did before a building was built on that corner, I said "we have to protect the residents of that street" so we implemented permanent parking on that street, and I did the same thing when I spoke to the people at Jason Way, I said " if we're going to implement permanent parking, you guys have to understand each household is going to get one parking permit, but you have to prove you live on that house, you have to have a certificate of occupancy and this way we know who lives there" and I gave them 30 days to think about it and report back to their committee person in that area. So I have not heard ever since, all I can do is state the facts and let people know what we're going to do, so that's good news. Getting back to Mr. Herrera, Mr. Lopez, as far as Front Street, the house at 40 Front Street, was brought to our attention. We knew this, as you know they have been receiving fines and notices, but they are paying the taxes over there. Someone is paying the taxes over there; we had people that came in and Mr. Herrera I spoke to you about it maybe eight years ago, were there was a group of people that were looking to buy that property and they did not want to buy that property, the owner did not want to sell it at that time. So someone was looking to buy it, knock it down, rebuild it, and they didn't want to do it. Mr. Lo Iacono has been following up on it for the past three months. Mrs. Papile brought that up again, that was more than an issue going on, so it was investigated further, and if you want to speak more on that.

Borough Administrator: All the inspectors have been there three or four times, if not more and they reported back to the construction official, who's tried to follow up. But as you say it's very difficult to be able to get the kind of information that you need, because you don't have the right to walk in. That's on the top of the list, he's staying on top of it, but he has not yet been able to do anything in terms of any enforcement at this point.

Mayor Pronti: There are different options that I am going to explain to you guys. My recommendation is to follow up with the construction official, it has been put by us, by the governing body, it has been placed by the Borough administrator, which is our role and then it was put on the desk of the construction official. He is following up with it, he does all sub-sequent follow ups, fines, repairs, emergency holdbacks. Because I asked him myself, I said, "can you put something around so that it's not able to be entered or whatever" and he told me that they can put some type of fencing around it, but they have to jump through hoops to do these things because they don't own the property. But it is considered a hazard, I don't know if you have anything to add on this. But you have to follow up with the construction official, it's on his desk. We are following up on our end, so call Mr. Kairys on Monday morning he's very, very much aware of it. There's nothing that we can do here, we referred it to them and we are following up them.

Unidentified resident: I have a question, I know you said the taxes were paid, if they were unpaid taxes 10 years ago, what about there must have been a decade's worth of fines.

Councilman Karcic: The only thing we can do with unpaid fines is put a lien on the property, that's a challenge.

Mayor Pronti: A lien in the property runs with the land , and a lien on the property is only good once the property is sold, because that's how you get the payment back on the lien, believe me I know your frustration. I've been dealing with it myself personally I tried to reach out to the owner and there was a woman who owned it, she passed away. There was a next of kin, I tried to reach out to the next of kin, I'm on top of this. I hate to drive down a street and see a building that looks like that in the town that I am proud of, trust when I tell you it drives me insane, we are doing what we can do for it, let's put our heads together and make this thing work, I don't want that property here and I don't want to look at it, it's disgusting and I hate it. I am on the record saying that, let's get the ball rolling on it. Stay on top of the construction official Mr. Lo Iacono. Mrs. Papile I am going to thank you, for the compliments I will pass that along to our DPW on a job well done. I am going to tell you I also live on a corner property with a storm drain, and every single week or twice a week I am out there picking something up of the storm drain, because as you know when it rains it sticks to it and then it looks like the water is not going down, and it's frustrating and the only thing I can hope is that other people do the same thing and we are trying to lead by example and I encourage everyone else to do the same as well. Thank you, for your point and I hope people watch this, and they learn as well, so thank you, for bringing that up.

Councilwoman Sheedy: Mr. O'Neill, on Jason Way, about the illegal apartments I want to add that, not that it has nothing to do with the one there, but the Board of Education has also been cracking down on the illegal apartments. They have hired another residency investigator, so they now have two. And illegal apartments like you just spoke about a lot of times includes a child coming in there, and then that adds to the number of kids that are infiltrating our school system. I know everyone thinks it's the apartments on Ridge Road, but I could tell you right now, I drive by Ridge Road every day in the summer to go to work, there's no traffic on Ridge Road during the summer.

Mayor Pronti: Allison, not everyone thinks that, only 10 people do.

Councilwoman Sheedy: Well some people do, but the illegal apartments is not only being addressed not only by the town, but also by the Board of Education. It's a serious issue, and everyone is on top of it, so I am happy that at one point we should be working together and I know there's some efforts being made on that behalf, to try and cut a lot of that out. Some of it is people living with family, but a lot of it is a third cousin twice removed by an aunt that was dead six years ago. But everyone is working on that, and that's serious issue in town that more people should report when they see something like that in the neighborhood.

Borough attorney Randy Pearce: I need to do something I rarely do, I need to make some comments and I'll make some changes to the agenda. For those of you who have not paid attention, due to the relentless efforts of our redevelopment coordinator, there's a lot going on in this town on Porete Ave, Ridge Road and River Road, we've been through 15 months of negotiations for a piece of property at 9 Porete Ave, that's finally coming to a head and it's currently listed on the agenda for introduction. However, there are some litigation issues and some financial issues that need to be addressed in executive session. My intent, depending on the feeling for the board with the litigation

and the financial issues, is to come back after executive session and introduce the Ordinance, it can be put on as a discussion for next month, I'm confident that based upon the last 15 months and especially the last 90 days, that we are now in a position to act on that, but not only after the board has full information. Ordinance No.2462 I don't want it introduced until after we have the conversation, I know the clerk is going to be mad at me. Skipping to Ordinance No. 2464 is for you Mrs. Maximous, you've been very patient and I've learned a great deal over the year in dealing with your various requests. Through the amazing help of our planner, Lindsay Knight, who doubles as our affordable housing planner and as our town planner, we have finally been able to put together an Ordinance that would allow for one, potentially, I'm not saying it's going anywhere, but one possible license but it has to go to the planning board first, so Lindsay and I worked together to put it together. First it has to go to the planning board for their comments before it gets introduced, it's on the agenda for introduction. It doesn't belong there, that's my fault, I can't send it to the planning board unless it's in final form, and that's what I've been working with your attorney over the last couple of months, to make sure that Lindsay, your attorney, everyone else agree that this is the language that we're proposing. So if it goes to the planning board they might like it or they might hate it, but at least they are working with a final product. But it's not on for introduction until there is a resolution on for tonight, which may or may not forward it to the planning board. That's the sequence of how it's going to work, it's in final form for review, subject to later discussion and possible implementation, I apologize for the changes to the agenda, but I need to temporarily pull Ordinance 2462 till after executive session and I need to totally pull Ordinance 2464 from tonight's agenda.

Mayor Pronti: Resolution off consent will send this to the planning board and then it will be ready for reading at the planning board.

Borough Attorney Randy Pearce: Well depending upon the planning board's comments, it may or may not be prepared or ready for August. It's in final form; I am sending it to them assuming this has to be voted on tonight. Assuming the votes are there to send it to the planning board, then they will have 45 days to review it and get us back their comments. We can either accept or reject their comments, with this one we need to respond to their comments, we can't just say thank you. We actually have to give specific response, they have 45 days after receiving it, the bottom line it's not on the agenda for tonight because it can't be introduced until it goes to the planning board and we will find out whether it's going to the planning board when we vote on the Resolution off consent.

Councilwoman Bocchino: The planning board meeting is July 20th.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2462 (PULLED FOR ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION)
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND 9 PORETE URBAN RENEWAL LLC AND APPROVING AN APPLICATION THEREOF PURSUANT TO

THE LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 *ET SEQ*. WITH RESPECT TO BLOCK 168, LOT 2 (9 PORETE AVENUE) IN THE PORETE AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA

ORDINANCE NO. 2463
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 187 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" TO ADD A NEW SECTION REGULATING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONITORING ZONES

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2464 (PULLED FROM AGENDA/NOT VOTED ON)
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 112 ENTITLED "CANNABIS" TO PERMIT CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAILER

ORDINANCE NO. 2465
BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NARDA PUMP STATION IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $412,000 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: Councilman Del Russo
SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2461
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO 165-171 RIVER ROAD FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2461 TO THE PUBLIC
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

No one wishes to be heard

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING AND ADOPT
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

RESOLUTION OFF CONSENT
R-157-26 RESO RE: REFERRAL OF THE INTRODUCED "ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 112 ENTITLED 'CANNABIS' TO PERMIT ONE CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAILER" TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW/COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo
SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karic, Del Russo, Bocchino
NAY: Councilwoman Sheedy

R-158-26 RESO RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION @8:23pm
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, PERSONNEL MATTERS, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT 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 Karic
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

[Executive Session]

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karic
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

ORDINANCE NO. 2462
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON AND 9 PORETE URBAN RENEWAL LLC AND APPROVING AN APPLICATION THEREOF PURSUANT TO THE LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 *ET SEQ*. WITH RESPECT TO BLOCK 168, LOT 2 (9 PORETE AVENUE) IN THE PORETE AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA

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

R-159-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY CONTRACT WITH JOSEPH M. SANZARI, INC. CONCERNING THE REPAIR OF SANITARY SEWERS ALONG RUTHERFORD PLACE

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

R-160-26 RESO RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE "BUILDING DEMOLITION & ASBESTOS REMOVAL AT 165-171 RIVER ROAD" PROJECT

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

R-161-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION STATUS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE'S FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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

R-162-26 RESO RE: CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino