Minutes

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 AT 7:00P.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

Mayor Pronti: If everyone could just keep in their thoughts and prayers those who perished on 9/11. We have a ceremony tomorrow that we're going to be speaking about, it's at 7:00pm down at Zadroga Field, if anyone wants to be there. The road is going to be closed, it's not going to be down the bottom, it's going to be up top by the street. We'll talk more about that as we go on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Regular Meeting – June 11, 2026
Executive Session – June 11, 2026

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

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 175-26 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 186-26 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-175-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS
R-176-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR MACALUSO PARK IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 1

R-177-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FY27 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT PROGRAM
R-178-26 RESO RE: SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES WITH BERGEN COUNTY
R-179-26 RESO RE: RENEWAL OF 2026-2027 LIQUOR LICENSES
R-180-26 RESO RE: REQUESTING REVISIONS TO A2273
R-181-26 RESO RE: EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND ENDORSING NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 149
R-182-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF A PART TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT
R-183-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF PER-DIEM EMT
R-184-26 RESO RE: CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS
R-185-26 RESO RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR MANAGED SERVICES RELATING TO PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE BOROUGH'S PHONE SYSTEM AND INTERNAL NETWORK HARDWARE
R-186-26 RESO RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS RELATING TO THE BOROUGH'S FIBER NETWORK

MOTION TO APPROVE
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry*, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino
*Abstains from all Fire Department matters

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I can't believe that the summer is over, school, obviously, and including you guys is back in full swing. Football season is upon us, and the Giants home opener is this Sunday at 8pm, there's a lot of other fall sports that are going on as well. With school comes traffic, please have patience, specially in the mornings when it's school drop-offs and kids are walking to school and again good luck to all the students that are enrolled over for sports activities. Mr. Mayor, I enjoyed the soft opening for Carlito's the food was great, and they are receiving praises online. I missed the Penelope's grand opening, but social media shows a strong support and praises as well. I urge every resident to stay local and support our businesses and give the new ones a quick try. Tomorrow is September 11th, as the Mayor just mentioned, always remember when terrorists rocked our Nation and killed police officers, firefighters, EMTs and citizen starting their workday. These terrorists are evil, and still to this day wish death to America, our Country our State and our communities need to be vigilant at all times. Mr. Mayor, if you don't mind I would like to read into the record a letter I wrote to the newspaper 25 years ago, just after 9/11 if that's ok with you. Many of us now know and will never forget the tragedy that struck our nation on September 11 at the World Trade Center in New York City. The fallout of this destruction is continuing. The North Arlington Fire Department was dispatched by the Port Authority of NY/NJ at 10:45 a.m. the morning of the disaster and responded with a full complement of men into the borough of Manhattan. Driving through the Holland Tunnel with a Port Authority Police escort was a new experience to say the least. None of us were prepared for

what we were about to endure. We arrived just after the second tower collapsed and before Building 7 fell. At this time we were staged exactly two blocks from the rubble and acted solely as support to other units operating at what is now called "Ground Zero." This was about to change. After about 14 hours of providing support, the Port Authority asked if we would continue our presence at the scene and assist in the rescue effort. In total, the NAFD worked tirelessly for five days looking, digging and searching through the debris for our brother firefighters and our fellow Americans now buried amongst the ruins of the World Trade Center. We also conducted secondary searches in the many buildings surrounding the World Trade complex many of which were still on fire and heavily damaged from the falling debris of the WTC. As our stretch of duty came to an end, the NAFD was involved in the recovery of two victims as well as other types of recovery.
After our job was done, we all had a moment to reflect on the last few days. Many of us were still confused as to how such an act of horror can happen in our own backyard. Sadness was evident in the face of all who were there. I believe that at that very moment we all realized that our lives have changed forever and that each and every one of us left a piece of ourselves in the rubble. We were overwhelmed with sorrow and disappointment. Disappointed because we didn't find more victims still alive. A feeling of helplessness was so profound that I personally felt nothing could make any of us feel confident in our skills and continue to be a protective department I have always known us to be. On Monday, Sept. 17 the North Arlington Fire Department along with our families attended an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Queen of Peace Church. Our intention was to pray alongside our fellow residents and to contemplate a new direction towards happiness. We never expected the reception and ovation we received from the residents on hand for the service. Not only did it help bring into perspective what we did, it made us proud to serve our community. Disappointment turned into pride in being a firefighter and more importantly an American. The North Arlington community is solely responsible for helping the North Arlington Fire Department feel good about what we did and why we do what we do 24 hours a day. Thank you, North Arlington. September 11, 2001 we all became patriots for liberty.

COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO: Good evening, since we didn't have any meetings over the summer, I don't have any official updates to report tonight. I have still been available to the residents, helping with any concerns that come up and staying involved in our community. Now that summer is coming to an end, I am looking forward to our meetings, starting back up and continuing the work we have planned for the fall. I also want to thank all of our Borough employees, first responders, volunteer workers and recreation staff for everything they do to keep our summer programs and events running smoothly, and I want to wish all of our North Arlington students a wonderful and healthy school year. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN KARCIC: As a liaison to the police department, I want to report for the month of August submitted by the police department. We currently have two officers who are currently assigned as school resource officers to the North Arlington public schools. Those are the two officers that are located in the high school and the middle school. They are there full-time during the day; it's been a great program. This is something we did in conjunction with the Board of Education. We currently have four new officers who are in field training, so they will be completing their field training shortly and be out on the road full-time. As I go over every month training, during roll call, there where updates to case law, criminal law, motor vehicle law reviewed. We have two officers in school resource officer training, they went for cellphone investigation techniques, bomb squad training, field training, Bergen Regional SWAT monthly

training, and then again the four new officers that are in field training program. Officers attended multiple concerts at the park along with National Night Out Against Crime, which was held right here in the Borough parking lot. For the month of August there was a total of 2,376 call of service, 995 property checks. I say this all the time if you see something please say something, call the police department that's their job, they go out and investigate it. Call the police department first and then post it on social media, not the other way around. There were a total of 387 motor vehicle stops, 2,160 summonses issued, so when people say we don't issue tickets, we average about 2,100 a month and then along with that there was 23 people arrested in the month of August, 14 on warrants, two driving while intoxicated, two for assault and a number of other charges. In the month of August the detective bureau took in 20 new investigations, of which five of them were able to close in a month. The primary for these cases is fraud, burglary, theft and shoplifting. Lastly, objectives for the month, they are continuing their quality of life enforcement, where they target commercial areas with violations and quality of life issues, including noise complaints, parking violations and related concerns throughout the Borough. Thay check all of our fields and parks daily, repeatedly throughout the day, throughout the night. You may have noticed there's some radar signs up around the town to help to try to control the speeding around town and they are out doing school zone enforcement, school traffic safety for pick up and drop off to ensure that our children are safe. And lastly this is my favorite part of the report, officers will continue to make positive citizen contacts during patrol operations and will attend and support community events and neighborhood gatherings throughout the Borough. So each officer is charged that while they are out on duty, that they don't only interact with people that they are investigating or pull over. Friendly civilians' interactions, it's a great program. As safety officer and with 9/11 tomorrow, as we remember September 11th and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost on that tragic day. We honor the courage and sacrifice of the first responders, police officers, firefighters and ordinary citizens who put their lives in the line to help others, 25 years later, the impact of 9/11 is still felt by families, first responders and communities across our Nation. Let us not forget those we lost, those who continue to suffer and the spirit of unity and compassion that brought our country together in the days that followed. May we always remember, may we always honor and may we never forget.

COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY: On October 7th there will be a flu clinic sponsored by HB Pharmacy. A flyer with the exact times will be posted to the borough website when it becomes available, will most likely be in the morning to coordinate with the senior citizens meeting. October 6, 20, and 27, between 12 – 2pm, there will be a Get Connected luncheon sponsored by The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources. Topics cover alcohol and medication issues for older adults. Lunch will be served. A $25 gift card for attending 2 of the 3 sessions, call the Board of Health to register. There was extensive discussion at the meeting as to what measures can be taken to help with the geese who seem to be making North Arlington their home. Just a reminder to everyone that according to borough code Chapter 369 that the feeding of wildlife is prohibited as it can harm animal health, alter natural behaviors and create serious safety risks for humans. Please if you see someone feeding the geese or the deer, call police dispatch so that they can speak to the residents. The summer recreation program ended after six fun filled weeks. Again I would like to thank the North Arlington Police and Fire Department for their help with providing the kids with fun filled days. The Bergen County Health Department for their Summer Safety Program. The DPW for helping out with preparing for our summer program at Allan Park. Lastly, thanks to the Borough Administrator and the Mayor and Council who hired some terrific counselors who worked for six weeks and learned the importance of hard work and patience to deal with little kids every day.

Celebrate North Arlington planning is still ongoing. If anyone would like to participate by having a table for their organization, please contact me for an application. We are looking forward to a great event. Reminder that tomorrow is our 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at 7pm on Schuyler Avenue. I want to thank all of the department heads that have been working diligently to be sure that this event is handled with dignity and respect for our North Arlington residents who lost their lives on 9/11 or as a result of service at ground zero. North Arlington will never forget.

COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO: Thank you, Mayor. With regards to our DPW department we've been preparing for the 9/11 ceremony for Friday, and hopefully we have a lot of people there. It will be a good event as we honor our fallen heroes and lost services people that we have had. Our summer program was a success once again. Over 40 intersections were restriped and crosswalk were repainted; the summer program also helped the department with litter patrol and park cleaning on a daily basis. It also shows our kids a great work ethic and it gives them a chance to make some money, it's a very important program, and it was a success again this year. I am very happy to report that. The DPW has also been preparing for celebrate North Arlington as well that is set for September 26th, as councilwoman Sheedy had said, that will be a good day as well. Hopefully we see everyone there and have a great turnout. This has been a very busy summer with the storms we have had as the tree work continues, trimming, stump removals and cleanup are still in progress. On a different note, the department of transportation has requested that our department of DPW elevate our Borough stop signs. They have to be seven feet from the curb line to the bottom of the sign, so you will be seeing them being moved and raised, and that's a Statewide mandate, so you will see that done. The 2025 paving program is now complete. Leaf season pick up is right around the corner, believe it or not, it begins November 1st, and what that brings shortly is unfortunately is the winter season we are preparing for the snow and they are saying it's going to be a bad winter again. We are prepared, we are ready our equipment is ready and that's a major plus, so I am happy to report that as well. Lastly, our senior group has begun meetings after a summer break, they met yesterday, but I don't have nothing to report on for them. However I will meet with them next week and I will have it next month. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I will be short, the recreation department did not meet this Tuesday, since it was the first day back to school for the kiddos and everybody it was crazy. So they will be meeting next week, I will be sure to discuss with them dates for our pumpkin patch and Halloween parade and our Christmas tree lighting, I know it's September but we have to start planning theses things way in advance. I will be starting Halloween festivity planning starting next week when I talk to them, that's always a favorite one. Football, cheer season, soccer all fall sports are starting, so please be mindful of the children playing out there, also walking to and from school. We want to wish the kids well in school, behave, be smart and make good choices. Last thing the military banners are up, they will stay up until Veteran's Day, as you can see a lot of them are starting to get worn off, some of them are actually six years, so pretty good. They will be coming down and I will go through them with the help of DPW and reaching out to those sponsors because we no longer hang them. I don't want them to be more damage than they possibly are, so you can order a new one for the next couple of years, ordering opens up in February, I'll work with DPW to coordinate a return day, time and place. Please keep that in mind if you ordered a banner the last couple of years, keep in mind you can order a new one if you like. I want to congratulate all these girls sitting over here, job well done.

MAYOR PRONTI: I just want to say a few things. I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend, the weather was beautiful, everything was nice. Since our last meeting the Observer did a nice article on our rolling reassessments, apparently there are still some people that don't understand how the rolling reassessments work. You may or may not have heard anyone preaching about it, but read the article if anyone needs the explanation, and hopefully it works. We took care of a complaint that we got here a couple of months ago, someone came in and complaint about a property in town, which the people moved out and were not maintaining the property, but they were paying their taxes on it, and it was kind of an eyesore, and it just kept getting worse. Our code enforcement was sending violations to them, and no one was paying the violations. There was no way to find the registered owner passed away, they lived in another state. It was very difficult, the people on the street, as you would expect were getting annoyed, and they brought it to our attention, we had our code enforcement and our construction officer go down there. They actually had to tear the porch off because it was rotten. They fenced in the property; they had an exterminator come in and take care of it. Apparently, there were raccoons living in the attic, it was horrible, it was nothing you want next door to you. So we took care of that, what happens is the Borough takes care of that expense, and then a lien goes on that property. So when they do sell that property the Borough gets that money back and move forward. It's safe now and we took care of that problem and these are the things that we take care behind the scene that people don't know about. So I figured I bring that up to your attention. School started, just a reminder I know the kids know. I want to remind everyone to please drive safely, I put out something on social media, but I know the kids aren't always visible. They are smaller than the cars, do not park on crosswalks, even if you're going to pick up your kid, there's other kids that are crossing in the crosswalks, some of them you are not able to see and you are making an unsafe situation for them. Please be vigilant, if you see someone doing it, just say "listen, please don't park on the crosswalk" you don't need yelling and screaming and carry on. But a simple reminder sometimes gets the point across. Also, since our last meeting we welcomed in two new restaurants, Carlitos and Penelope's both of them seem to be very well received by the community, people have been in every single one of them. Every night, I keep driving by and just checking it out and seeing how well they do because I check up on all of our businesses, both of them are a success, if you haven't gone yet go and try them, they are very good. There was also a very nice article, a really nice article, I just shared it yesterday, it was a nice article in Business View Magazine, and they recognized the Borough of North Arlington, as one of the premier communities in the Country. There are other States other areas, and we were recognized, which was very nice. They reached out to us, we sent them a couple of photos, they asked for statements and it was very nice. If you get a chance please read that Business View Magazine will be out shortly, I have the link on my Facebook account if you want to look at it. Like I said earlier the World Trade Center tribute is tomorrow, the 9/11 tribute. Go take a ride down there at Zadroga Field when you leave it will be dark outside, and you will be able to see the lights. On a clear night it's breathtaking, they do a great job with the tribute of the lights down there. Last thing I wanted to touch on is the police department just got their two final ALPRs it's a licenses plate reader, we now have four, we have them on all four corners of our town, they read every single license plate that drives by. It automatically tells the police department if there's a violator of a stolen car, someone wanted by the police, someone that's driving without a license, the registered owner, if they are a hit and run from an accident. So get everything squared away because they are going to know, but I don't think I have to worry about anybody in this room. Everything is going to be much better, and it's a better way to protect the public. You don't need people who are wanted by the police just casually cruising through our

town, and we don't know about it. I am going to ask Councilwoman Bocchino, who's our rec liaison to go down and hand the certificates to these young ladies.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION
18U North Arlington Lady Vikings Summer Softball Travel Team Champions

PROCLAMATION
100th Birthday – Louise Cucco

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Thank you, Mayor. You probably heard tonight from a number of councilmembers about the various activities going on in town. It's probably a good time to sit back and reflect for a moment it's been a very, very busy summer, but a very successful summer, we had a lot going on. A successful concert series that had a very good attendance, a lot of people came for the first time, did very well. Summer camps work program for the kids, many numbers of activities going on with council people involved, and it really reflects well on the community to see many activities and so many people giving up their time. Tomorrow night is a big night for us commemorating 9/11. Celebrate North Arlington at the end of the month and then we will go right into Halloween and Christmas and those kinds of activities. Please stay tunned for more information on our website and you will keep up with every that's going on in town. Just earlier today we go delivered the audit report, the financial audit report for 2025, most of us haven't even read the entire report, the recommendation page, which you can go to, to see what flaws they found, it was very favorable, we got a very good report. I think that we could be comfortable knowing that our finances really are in as good shape as we say they are and hopefully we continue to maintain that. The second item I wanted to touch on, as we came through a difficult budget process this year, and we came through in pretty good shape, we are already working on what's going to be a difficult year next year. There's been a number of meetings with state representatives, insurance people. It looks like there's going to be another 20% increase in premiums for 2027, probably even more, nothing is settled yet, but it does not look good. We have found new ways to try to save a few bucks so we can maintain the coverage that we have right now for all of our employees. The world of emergency responses has changed quite a bit in the last few years. We need a serious reorganization of our emergency services, our EMS services. We've begun the process of studying what's going on, how we can change it, how we can make it better and how we can make sure that it's here for us when we need it in the years to come, so keep your eyes open for that.

Mayor Pronti: I just want to point to that Steve was talking about the audit, each year we audit ourselves, this is a normal procedure, every Borough does it. If anyone has a question, they are all posted, they are public information, it's done every year, just something that we do.

REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT – NOT IN ATTENDANCE

ENGINEERS REPORT – AUGUST MATARAZZO: I have good news to report on the emergency repairs for the Nardo Pumping Station, the contractor Montana Construction, has mobilized this week to start the repairs for the station. Currently they've begun excavating out where they where they want to the insertion valve on the force main is exposed, and they are begging the process of putting in that valve now, and that's to facilitate the necessary bypass.

Eventually, once that's complete, then they will move inside the chamber to do the repairs necessary to replace all the falling check valves and gate valves. Moving down to the Macaluso Park improvements, we will be advertising for bid starting on Monday, and the bid opening will take place October 1st and look to have break ground on that, hopefully before Halloween. The improvements for that will be including new landscaping, walkways, fencing and lighting. Demolition at 165, 171 River Road, the former Comcast property. The asbestos subcontractor will be in site tomorrow morning, and that will be the remediation of all the asbestos in the main building. So they will be going through and removing all that material and they will be doing that before the main building demo contract can be on site to take down the structure. We look to have that fully completed within two months, and they will have a nice gravel parking lot.

Mayor Pronti: I did make a mention that I want that done before two months. There's a lot of football games out and I want people to have parking.

August Matarazzo: Yes, we are pushing that, pushing them along, two months the most. As I mentioned earlier the 2025 roadway improvements, milling and paving is complete, as well as concrete curb and sidewalk construction. As part of that program, that milling and paving of the parking lot for the Schuyler Ave, firehouse is on waiting, they started that yesterday morning. The 2026 roadway improvements, we are about ready to submit to DOT. We had a meeting earlier today to discuss that, for the most part, we have a couple of scope modifications. First one will be to swap Forest Street with Beaver Street. Forest Street was paved by PSE&G so we would like to switch Forest Street to Beaver Street, so they will be reaching out to DOT to get that modified. The second scope modification will be Melrose Ave, we have applied for a grant funding for Melrose Ave, in the 2027 program. The third one that is not listed would be the inclusion of Arlington Street, as an additional bid. The parking lot paving for what we're calling the Rip Collins Athletic Complex Annex Lot, after discussing that will be included as an alternate bid in the 2026 program. So we will have road paving as well as parking lot paving. Lastly we had a coordination meeting with the EPA regarding the Passaic River Resiliency project, this meeting went well. The EPA had largely no concerns with our proposed bulkhead project, for the most part it will be just coordination efforts with the construction work with the shoreline reconstruction . The EPA is probably two to three years out from their mitigation efforts on the Passaic River, so we will be well into construction by that point.

Mayor Pronti: That's the cleanup from the big payout, right?

August Matarazzo: Correct, yes.

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

Leon Podurgiel – 246 Riverview Ave: We seem to have a problem with Macaluso Park, lately people are bringing dogs in and letting them run wild for a couple of hours, and it's been all day long. The other thing is in the evening when it gets dark people are still the park, it should be

locked, it should not be open we don't know what's going on in the park, we can't see because the lighting is so poor. Something needs to be done, that needs to be addressed and taken care of.

Mayor Pronti: Have you been calling the police department?

Leon Podurgiel: Yes I have called them.

Cengiz Sever – 16 Albert Street: Good evening, just wanted o comment on the senior housing plan, I've seen it and it's an ambitious plan. Forty units, seniors, veterans and affordable housing, I believe there's 41 parking spaces, 10 are EV and 2 handicap. It sounds like great building, great project, too good to be true. My curiosity is if people want to go there beside from the residents that will have a parking spot, where do they park? Because I know that the neighborhood is very tight with parking, I am curious about that one. But the one thing that has been digging at me a little bit, we had affordable housing. The State wanted us to have 200 units, and Mr. Councilman Karcic kept telling me that it's not 200 units, they wanted 2,000 units, 200 which are affordable, if I am not mistaken, we went, we took them to court, we sued, we won, I saw in the newsletter. But I'm understanding that we still owe 200 units of affordable housing, and that we are rezoning River and Schuyler for affordable housing or something along those lines. I am curious how all that played out, do we owe affordable housing? Do we win? Do we not owe affordable housing? I am just not quite getting that part. Thank you.

Michael Sawicz – 22 Bergen Avenue: I have two points, the first point is I want to commend the Mayor and Council on the great work you've been doing the last few years in terms of our budget, our Borough finances, our Borough improvements and just leading us into the future. I think you're doing a great job and just keep up the good work. My second point is, I'd like to talk about the Memorial Day Parade, every year I go and I really enjoy it and have a great time, and inevitably at the end of the parade I saw the same thing. I wish it was longer, so I'd like the Council to consider maybe having a joint parade with Lyndhurst. It seems to be impractical for us to have one with Kearny or Rutherford, but Lyndhurst and North Arlington seem like something that could be done, and I think it would benefit both towns, it would be a longer parade and of course we could modify it that kids would walk in their own town and we can figure out the perfect route. But maybe is something that the Borough would like to discuss in the future of having a joint parade with Lyndhurst, which is something that people would say "wow, this really is an improvement" and I would stop saying "I wish it was longer" Thank you.

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

Mayor Pronti: Leon, your dismay is going to be taken care of very soon because the Macaluso project is going to be starting very soon, and all the lighting is going to be changed in there. They are going to be putting a brand new walking path around the park, and the gate is not going to be that big gate anymore, the fencing is all going to be replaced. It's going to be very decorative, and there's only going to be one gate that's going to be open for people to come in and out, and that's going to be easier for the police to monitor and close. But when you see someone there at night,

call the police department, they will send somebody by they will shine the spotlight in. If they are doing something wrong, they check on it. We are not cutting the trees down, I know everyone hates them, I get complaints all the time. We will remove four trees, but the big trees are staying there, we are putting in healthy trees, but all the pine trees are staying, so all the shade and everything is going to be there. There is also going to be a picnic table with a solar canopy and a phone charging unit on it and a water fountain, so that's going to be a big improvement there.
Mr. Sever, you brought up the senior housing, I happen to have a layout of our senior housing plan in front of me, hoping that someone would come and ask about it. I bring this every month, and barely get to brag about it. But we do have 41 units going in, senior housing in that location. I know that people have questioned that there was a flood there during super storm Sandy. There was a flood everywhere during super storm Sandy, this is an area that was done by engineers, and they found out where exact flood line is. This is not a flood area because of the height elevation. I don't know if you want to touch on any of that, but I am explaining this correctly with the elevations?

August Matarazzo: The property basically is right on the edge of that flood hazard line, and in addition to that the structure itself is elevated. So all the units are not in a flood elevation, they be elevated above flood.

Mayor Pronti: No one will be drowning? Just checking because you never know. The other thing you asked about the affordable housing numbers. Councilman Karcic, I know you had a conversation about that, if you want to touch basis on that.

Councilman Karcic: The number that you are referencing, you're no longer allow to build a building or a number of units and say "okey, there's our affordable housing" and if you remember, that's what we used to call projects, it was like there's the low income housing, we're going to put 500 people in this little area, and everybody there". The State says you can't do that anymore, when you do affordable housing, it can only be percentage of the total of number of units. So that's where if we were to build 200 units, so 20% right? So 200 units, we would need to build 1,000 housing units and declare 200 of them affordable in order to meet the State's requirement. That's a big challenge that every municipality throughout the State is facing, where they have an affordable housing requirement, and it's not just 200, 300 apartments, it's how many apartments do you have to build to meet that. So just imagine if we had to build 1,000 new apartments here in town, Ridge Road would be six-story high rises. Our attorney argued got them to come into some consideration because when you have an affordable housing obligation, and Ridge Road is the perfect example, we would have to designate the entire strip of Ridge Road. We lose control of what we can built there, these are the things they don't tell everybody. Once you designate Ridge Road an area that can be used for affordable housing, a developer can come in and say "well, we are going to build 50 units, we are going to make 5 of them affordable and we are going to do it with 10 parking spots" you will figure it out, we have no control over that. This is the reason we fought so hard against it. As part of the settlement, there were two areas that we did need to designate where affordable housing could be build, one of them is on River Road, they looked at a track of land, and this is what the agreement that we were able to negotiate with the State on. A tract of land on River Road and one block parcel, which was already an area designated in the redevelopment.

Borough Attorney Randy Pearce: Very simple, they way you posed your question, did we win? The answer is we won resoundingly, total victory, we have a zero realistic development possibility. It's agreed to by the State, by fair share, the State of New Jersey has determined that all the towns, all 575, let's call it towns, have an obligation to build 100,000 affordable housing units in the next 10 years, and they gave us 223 unit obligation. We fought that, we won, and the State of New Jersey said you have zero realistic development possibility, so we don't have to build any, however as Councilman Karcic said, in exchange they said "well, can you give us any property that if some developer can figure out how to create new land" like on the property where Charlie's Nursery is and the old junkyard? If someone can figure out a way to build on a lot that's roughly 60 feet deep, good luck. It's on the river, it's already impossible to build there.

Mayor Pronti: The Army Corps of Engineers would never allow it, that is a flood zone.

Randy Pearce: So the answer to your question, and the last question you asked about parking, we are also in the process of taking over Golomb parking lot, and that will also be for overflow parking for people visiting the senior housing center.

Mayor Pronti: There's plenty of parking down there, there's more than the mandated amount of parking for senior housing, se we actually met and exceeded the number that was required.

Councilman Karcic: I just want to say one more thing, I don't agree with the State whenever any type of development puts in any type of EV charging, they say you put an EV charging, and it accounts for two parking spots. How does that make sense? So, you put in two EV spots, and you can reduce your need by four. It doesn't make sense because bottom line when those cars aren't charging, they need a place to park, but we do not have any control over that. That's the State, that's what they designated.

Mayor Pronti: That's why it makes no sense, what they are trying to do is to entice builders to in the EV charging stations, but they should just mandate it. Don't try to make it like you're getting reward, so we didn't allow that. We mandated that every bedroom in that place has to have a parking spot, so we exceeded what the parking requirement was, as we do with every redevelopment. The Memorial Day Parade, information and I am going to ask our Memorial Day Parade people to comment on that.

Councilwoman Bocchino: Last year we did invite the neighboring towns to join us, so we were thinking we would love to see the parade larger, longer. We had started the initial to try and get that going, but I am glad you brought that up.

Mayor Pronti: We do the St. Patrick parade in Kearny, which is lots of fun.

Councilwoman Sheedy: I don't know if you have read that Kearny, has decided not to have their annual Halloween parade this year, which it's a huge event, and the reason they are cancelling it, it's because of finances. So I have a feeling what you're asking for, we refer as to share services with other towns. They are going to have no choice at one point because the cost is getting higher. I don't blame Kearny for doing it, but it's prudent in their council and Mayor because their taxes did go up double digit's numbers, and that's a big hit for their taxpayers. So it's sad at it is for the

residents not to have something they love. So what you're saying it's something that we will see more towns doing, because I know Lyndhurst, I believe goy hit with high taxes.

Mayor Pronti: I am going to touch on the other thing about doing everything with the financial, thank you, for noticing and we have brought up this in several meetings along the way since we adopted our budget, and there were percentages of healthcare that went up considerably, and as you know everybody was behind raising minimum wage. Everybody was behind raising the different costs different allowances. But that rolls up, and what happens the cost of garbage collection goes up, the cost of everything goes up, every labor position. We would be very bad corporate owners, if we didn't raise our employees, their salaries up as well, we like to take care of our employees, and we raise them accordingly each year because they deserve to get raises. We don't want people working in town where there are not appreciated, where they are not recognized and we take good care of our employees. They are happy employees and they are productive employees and we were able to do that. We delivered a budget that increased 1.89% which is very difficult to do. It's funny because you look at social media, and every time you see someone complaining that they had a 300% increase in taxes, it's always somebody that doesn't have a name, or a fake account, or something like that. These are not real people, so their taxes did not go up. I ask them "please reach out to me, let me know the lot and block this happened, because this has to be a mistake"

Councilman Karcic: I will share, and this happened on my own block, new person came in, they got their tax bill, they flipped out because their taxes went up almost $4,000, now granted they came in and did some remodeling, but not enough to make their taxes go up $4,000. But until I got to take a look at the prior owner was a senior citizen whose taxes were frozen close to 15 years. The moment she sells that house, that house is now taxed at current rate, and of course when I sat down and explained this to them, they could not believe it, this house changed hands twice in matter of four months. It was bought by somebody, came in and did a quick remodel and then flipped it, they had no idea that was the reason their taxes went up. Their taxes were still significantly lower than the area where both of them came from.

Mayor Pronti: If you buy a $800.000 house and your tax bill on it, the estimate is $6,000 a year, you should know that's not what is going to be, just pay attention. Our average tax in this town is $10,000 this year, it's lower than most of the towns around us, and it wasn't always that way. I remember 10, 15 years looking at tax bills and saying "wow ours are much higher than Lyndhurst, ours are much higher than Kearny" I owe a house in Kearny, too and it was really different and now you look at them and we've come a long way. Thank you, for the compliments. When the State came in and mandated how many each town would have to have, some towns were like "I can't do that" there's no place to do it. How could you come in here and say that we have to build our population by 3,000 could you imagine.

Councilman Karcic: I have a quick story, I used to do business down at Wall Township, I went down that way recently and I pulled out, what used to be woods along the highway is now 1,500 units, all townhomes. What used to be wooded area is now a densely overpopulated area, and when I walked in and talked to one of the businessmen, they said they put all this in. Now everybody floods because the forest absorbs all the water during the rain and snow, that's all gone now.

Mayor Pronti: The last thing I wanted to make is people in the State, they don't actually visit North Arlington, they viewed it on a map, they viewed it on Google earth. Mr. Pearce, can attest to that, there was a woman sitting at a desk saying "they can build here, they can build here, they can build here" they told us we can build on wetlands on Porete Ave, one was on a landfill, and he other one was on wetlands, there was Charlie's Nursery, you're not building there. An easement. There were so many places, it was just nuts. The other one was Ewing Place, an industrial complex where they labeled that you could build housing instead of having this, it was a machine shop or something I think, with the contamination there. They labeled property and they also picked state property. They tabled NJSEA property and said, "North Arlington you can build there", they did, property that we don't own, that the state owns. We did get advice from some people who said "why are you fighting with the State, just do what they tell you to do. Stop fighting with the State" we fought with the State, and we won, we got the outcome we needed. We did it right, we won, you won, yes the residents won, that was big. I know this attorney who's pretty good, and he did a good job.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2471
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 (53 Hendel Avenue)

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

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2467
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 (100 Stover Avenue)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2467 TO THE PUBLIC
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Sheedy

No one wishes to be heard

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2468
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 (119 Locust Avenue)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2468 TO THE PUBLIC
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Sheedy

No one wishes to be heard

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2469
BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $1,896,000 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.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2469 TO THE PUBLIC
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
SECONDED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Sheedy

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2470
BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO MACALUSO PARK (PHASE 1) IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $749,000 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.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2470 TO THE PUBLIC
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Sheedy

No one wishes to be heard

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

R-187-26 RESO RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION @8:18pm
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 Del Russo
SECONDED BY: Councilman Karcic
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Del Russo, Bocchino
EXCUSED: Councilwoman Sheedy

[Executive Session]

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT @10:26pm
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry
SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo
ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino