

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The following are the Minutes of the January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes that was held in the Council Meeting room of the Municipal Building, 25 Lenox Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey and was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Serra read a short prayer and led participants in saluting the flag. He then read the Open Public Meeting Law Statement of Compliance.

A Roll Call indicated the following members were present: Mayor Michael Serra, Council President Jennifer Polidori, Councilmen William Baig, Bobby Cruz, Erik DeLine, Ekamon Venin and Councilwoman Maria Kent.

Also present were Borough Attorney, Mark Semeraro, Borough Administrator, Paula Cozzarelli and Borough Clerk, Elizabeth Brandsness.

MAYOR PRESENTATION AND UPDATES:

Mayor Serra thanked the First Responders for their active role in responding to a fire in Pompton Lakes. Mayor Serra announced the firefighters involved who entered the home and stated he is thankful the injuries they received were not life threatening and again thanked them for their courage and bravery.

Fire Department – Oath of Office

Mayor Serra invited members of the Volunteer Fire Department to come forward so he could administer the Oath of Office to them. Mayor Serra thanked the members for all they do for the community.

ONE-YEAR PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Borough Attorney – Mark J. Semeraro, Esq. - DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, and Giblin, LLP

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, No, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

Borough Auditor – James Cerullo - Wielkocz & Company, LLC

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, No, Councilwoman Kent, No, Councilwoman Polidori, No, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

Mayor Serra provided the tie-breaking vote and voted Yes, in favor of the Borough Auditor, James Cerullo - Wielkocz & Company, LLC.

Insurance Risk Manager – GJEM/Otterstedt Insurance Agency

Mayor Serra requested to change the award of Insurance Risk Manager from Hundertmark Agency to GJEM/Otterstedt Insurance Agency.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to open the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

LLOYD KENT, Glen Court

Mr. Kent stated he was the former President of the *Police Athletic League (PAL)* Basketball Program and the *PAL* Basketball Program was successfully transitioned to the *Pompton Lakes Riverdale Youth Organization (PLRYO)* under the leadership of Councilman Bobby Cruz.

Mr. Kent commented on past donations made to the *PAL* and stated the *PAL* Board had agreed to donate excess funds to the Borough, the Board of Education and the *PLRYO* program; all funds to go towards basketball and youth oriented programs/equipment. Mr. Kent commented on a recent donation that was made to the Board of Education towards equipment and presented the *PAL* funds, a check in the amount of \$21,758.57, to the Mayor and Council to offset costs for youth basketball purposes. Mayor Serra thanked Mr. Kent and the members of the *PAL* Board for their past involvement with the program.

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton requested an update as to the status of the Lambert Street Bridge. Ms Cozzarelli responded and stated the Construction Official and the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW) reported the bridge structure is satisfactory but some renovations would be beneficial.

Mr. Hinton commented on past discussion on the maintenance of curbing and sidewalks and questioned the status on an Ordinance to address his concerns. Mayor Serra replied and stated as of this time no action has been taken and it is under review.

Mr. Hinton requested additional information for Resolution 23-48 Rescind Resolution 22-262 Job Title And Stipend Amendment For The Police Department (Sharon Sonne -Confidential Secretary To The Police Chief). Mayor Serra responded he would provide information prior to adoption.

Mr. Hinton thanked the Volunteer Fire Department for their service to the community; the Fire Department and First Responders for organizing a parade during the Holidays; Mr. O'Rourke Department of Public Works Superintendents and staff for repositioning a dedication stone at Pacifico Gallo Park.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilwoman Polidori to close the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES:

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023. All voted in favor of the motion.

BILL LISTS:

RESOLUTION 23-43

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,358,443.42

Motion moved by Councilman Baig, second by Councilman Venin to approve the following Bill Lists. All voted in favor of the motion.

Current Fund	\$ 4,219,855.82
Capital Fund	\$ 47,450.00
Recreation Trust	\$ 2,279.92
Unemployment	\$ 193.44
Dog Trust Account	\$ 9.00
Other Trust Account	\$ 88,655.24
Clerk's Account	\$ -0-
Open Space Trust	\$ -0-

PETITIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

(No Council Members Required Any Resolutions to Be Pulled from the Consent Agenda for Separate Action)

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed Resolutions, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes does not desire to remove any Resolutions for individual action from that Agenda, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved:

1. Resolution 23-38 Authorizing Refund Of Outside Liens Block 3200 Lot 6
2. Resolution 23-42 Accepting The Resignation Of Hector Alcantara (911 Telecommunications Dispatcher And Class II Special Police Officer) From The Pompton Lakes Police Department
3. Resolution 23-44 Authorizing Cancellation Of Taxes For 100% Disabled Veteran (Block 5500, Lot 18.01, 14 Cedar Street)
4. Resolution 23-45 Authorizing Cancellation OF Taxes For 100% Disabled Veteran (Block 6702 Lots 3.01,3.04 366 Pompton Avenue)
5. Resolution 23-46 Authorizing An Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services contract Between The Borough Of Pompton Lakes and Delisle Consulting, LLC., To Provide Technical Redevelopment Assistance For Redevelopment Projects Carried Out Through The Borough’s Redevelopment Agency
6. Resolution 23-47 Appointment Of Meghan Mulraney To The Position Of Full Time Key Boarding Clerk 1 Including The Positions Of Board Of Health Secretary, Tax Assessment Search Officer And Technical Assistant To The Tax Assessor Effective February 5, 2023
7. Resolution 23-48 To Rescind Resolution 22-262 Job Title And Stipend Amendment For The Police Department (Sharon Sonne -Confidential Secretary To The Police Chief)
8. Resolution 23-49 Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract With Jobs4blue for Coordination Of Off-Duty Employment Of Police Officers And Police Officer Scheduling System
9. Resolution 23-50 Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The Borough Of Pompton Lakes Authorizing The Hiring Of Police Officers As Permitted By Senate Bill S3220, P.L. 2021, C.7
10. Resolution 23-51 Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract With Mitchell Humphrey & Co. For Software Product Licensing And Maintenance And Supplemental Software Product For Use By The Construction Department
11. Resolution 23-52 Resolution Authorizing Payment #1 To Fire & Safety Services, LTD. For The Pierce Arrow XT Chassis And Aerial Device In The Amount Of \$908,641.00

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Baig to approve the Consent Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 23-38

Pursuant to the facts as stated therein, I respectfully request the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes has reported receiving the amounts shown below for the redemption of the respective lien(s), and

	LC#	DOS	B/L	Amount	Pay to the Lien Holder
BERG, EDNA C/O JAN MESSNER 117 ADRIAN STREET POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442	22-00003	10/26/2022	117 ADRIAN STREET	\$2,721.70	EVOLVE BANK & TRUST 6000 POPLAR AVE, SUITE 300 MEMPHIS, TN 38119
			PREMIUM	\$69,000.00	
			TOTAL	\$71,721.70	

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper officers be and they are hereby authorized and directed to pay the indicated amount to the holder of the lien certificate(s) as hereinafter shown below:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has certified that sufficient uncommitted funds in the amount of \$71,721.70 are available in the 2023 Borough of Pompton Lakes Budget for the purposes set forth herein.

RESOLUTION 23-42

WHEREAS, Hector Alcantara, notified the Chief of Police that he would be resigning from his position of 911 Telecommunications Dispatcher and Class II Special Police Offer effective January 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, his formal letter dated January 11, 2023 is on file with the Borough; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey that it hereby accepts this letter of resignation and thanks Hector for his service to the Borough and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

RESOLUTION 23-44

WHEREAS, The Tax Assessor has determined the owner of the below property to be eligible for a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption effective, May 24, 2022; pursuant to NJSA 54:4-3.30 et seq, as amended by Public Law 2019, Chapter 413; and

WHEREAS, Taxes have been billed and paid for the property through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Taxes on the property have been billed through June 30th, 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper officers be and are hereby authorized and directed to cancel the taxes and refund overpayments.

Block/Lot	Location	Taxes Cancelled	Taxes Refunded	Period
5500/18.01	14 Cedar St.	\$ 1,283.41	\$1,283.41	2Q2022
		\$ 3,035.52	\$3,035.52	3Q2022
		\$ 3,035.00	\$3,035.00	4Q2022
	TOTAL	\$7,353.93	\$7,353.93	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has certified that sufficient uncommitted funds for \$7,353.93 are available in the 2022 Borough of Pompton Lakes Budget for the purposes set forth herein.

RESOLUTION 23-45

WHEREAS, The Tax Assessor has determined the owner of the below property to be eligible for a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption effective, March 30, 2022; pursuant to NJSA 54:4-3.30 et seq, as amended by Public Law 2019, Chapter 413; and

WHEREAS, Taxes have been billed and paid for the property through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Taxes on the property have been billed through June 30th, 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper officers be and are hereby authorized and directed to cancel the taxes and refund overpayments.

Block	Location	Lot 3.01	Taxes Lot 3.04	Taxes CANCEL & REFUND	Total Period
6702	366 Pompton Ave.		\$ 4,097.66	\$1,498.00	
2Q2022					
			\$ 4,228.18	\$1,546.05	
3Q2022					

4Q2022	\$ 4,227.00	\$1,546.00	
TOTAL	\$12,552.84	\$4,590.05	\$17,142.89

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has certified that sufficient uncommitted funds for \$17,142.89 are available in the 2022 Borough of Pompton Lakes Budget for the purposes set forth herein.

RESOLUTION 23-46

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to obtain services to provide specialized redevelopment expertise to help with real estate development implementation associated with redevelopment projects carried out through the Borough's Redevelopment Agency while playing a key intermediary role in handling redevelopment projects, and furthering the development and policies related thereto (the "Redevelopment Services"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough attempted to locate someone that can perform the Redevelopment Services that are specialized and qualitative in nature requiring expertise, extensive training and a proven reputation in the field of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to ensure that developers adhere to building design and implementation and other important policy goals of the Borough's Redevelopment Agency, and that all projects proceed in a timely manner, and within prescribed budgets and pursuant to specifications; and

WHEREAS, after considerable efforts, the Borough identified only one (1) individual, Benjamin Delisle, now working through a solely owned limited liability company known as Delisle Consulting, LLC, located at 63 South Maple Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey 07018 ("Delisle") who has the required specialized expertise and training to perform the Redevelopment Services; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes (the "Borough") desire to engage Redevelopment Consulting Services with Benjamin Delisle of Delisle Consulting, LLC for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Delisle wishes to enter into this agreement with the Borough as an LLC created by him upon the adoption of Resolution 23-46; and

WHEREAS, under the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq. (the "LPCL"), a municipality may enter into a contract for the performance of services without competitive public bidding if the services being procured qualify as extraordinary unspecifiable services; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the Redevelopment Services are such that the award of a contract for them is exempt from public bidding requirements as "Extraordinary Unspecified Services," pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii) (hereinafter referred to as "EUS") because the services to be procured are of a specialized and qualitative nature requiring expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor, and the services cannot be reasonably described in detailed written specifications; and

WHEREAS, Delisle Consulting, LLC., through its sole principal Benjamin Delisle, has demonstrated that it is qualified and has agreed to provide the specialized expertise and services needed to perform the Redevelopment Services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (specifically, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii)) requires that a notice of the award of contracts for "Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services" without competitive B.I.D. must be published in a local newspaper; and

WHEREAS, this contract is anticipated to exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the actions contemplated by this Resolution shall result in the award of a Non-Fair and Open contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, Delisle Consulting, LLC. has completed and submitted to the Business Entity Disclosure Certification certifying that Delisle Consulting, LLC. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Pompton Lakes in the previous one (1) year, that during the term of the contract with the Borough of Pompton Lakes will not make any prohibited contributions, and the contract shall specifically prohibit Delisle Consulting, LLC. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, due to the unique nature of the work and the qualifications and experiences that Delisle Consulting, LLC. possesses, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes wish to enter into an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (EUS) Contract with Delisle Consulting, LLC., located at 63 South Maple Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey 07018, for work performed by Delisle Consulting, L.L.C. whereby compensation shall not exceed the amount of \$2,000 monthly and \$24,000 annually for the provision of technical redevelopment assistance to help with real estate development implementation services associated with redevelopment projects carried out through its Borough's Redevelopment Agency, commencing on the issuance of a Notice to Proceed and terminating on December 31, 2023; and

WHREAS, the Mayor and Council to the extent possible wish to offset the cost of this contract through the use of escrow moneys deposited with the Borough by developers that intend to carry out redevelopment projects in the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

1. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the Municipal Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes to execute an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service Contract with Delisle Consulting, LLC., located at 63 South Maple Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey 07018, for work performed by Delisle Consulting, L.L.C. whereby compensation shall not exceed the amount of \$2,000 monthly and \$24,000 annually to provide technical redevelopment assistance to help with real estate development implementation services associated with redevelopment projects carried out through its Borough's Redevelopment Agency, commencing on the issuance of a Notice to Proceed and terminating on December 31, 2023.
2. The Treasurer has certified that funds are available in the 2023 temporary budget and contingent upon approval of the 2023 permanent budget. A copy of the Certification of Funds issued shall be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk by the together with this resolution.
3. This Contract is being awarded pursuant to the non-fair and open procedures of the State Pay to Play Law N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5 and pursuant to the provisions of the State Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(ii)).
4. The Certification of Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service, as required by State Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(ii)), is attached hereto and shall be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk with the original resolution.
5. The Determination of Value is attached hereto and shall be filed with the Office of the Borough Clerk with the original resolution.
6. This Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service Contract with Delisle Consulting, LLC. is effective from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
7. A copy of the executed agreement herein authorized shall be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk by the Borough Administrator.
8. A notice of this action shall be published in the newspaper authorized by law to publish a legal advertisement and as required by law within 10 days of its passage.
9. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption and publication as permitted under the Laws of the State of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION 23-47

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator, Paula Cozzarelli, has recommended to hire a full-time Keyboarding Clerk 1 to support the Department of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the Keyboarding Clerk 1 position was advertised; and

WHEREAS, Meghan Mulraney was the sole, qualified applicant to apply for the advertised position; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administer recommends that Meghan Mulraney be hired for the following positions: Fulltime Keyboarding Clerk 1 at an annual salary of \$38,734; Secretary to the Board of Health - annual stipend of \$1,000; Tax Assessment Search Officer – annual stipend \$1,000 and Technical Assistant to the Tax Assessor – annual stipend \$1,500; and

WHEREAS, the start date for the positions of Keyboarding Clerk 1, Secretary to the Board of Health, Tax Assessment Search Officer and Technical Assistant to the Tax Assessor will be February 5; 2023 and

WHEREAS, said positions are recognized by the Pompton Lakes Borough Employees Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that Meghan Mulraney is hereby appointed to the positions of Keyboarding Clerk 1 at an annual salary of \$38,734, Secretary to the Board of Health - annual stipend of \$1,000, Tax Assessment Search Officer - annual stipend of \$1,000.00 and Technical Assistant to the Tax Assessor - annual stipend \$1,500 effective February 5; 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer has certified that sufficient uncommitted funds are available in the 2023 temporary budget and shall be appropriated in the 2023 adopted budget for the purposes set forth herein and made a part of this resolution.

RESOLUTION 23-48

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution #22-262 be rescinded until such time a Memorandum of Agreement can be reached between the Borough of Pompton Lakes and the Pompton Lakes Borough Employee Association (PLBEA).

Ms. Cozzarelli stated the original Resolution No. 22-262 authorizes a stipend but it has been rescinded until a Memorandum of Agreement can be reached between the Borough and the PLBEA.

RESOLUTION 23-49

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes has need for services relating to the coordination and billing off-duty employment of police officers for police related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough utilizes Police Officer Scheduling System produced by VCS Human Capital Management for the scheduling of Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, services such as support and/or maintenance of proprietary hardware and software may be awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(dd); and

WHEREAS, Jobs4Blue, a subsidiary of VCS Human Capital Management has agreed to provide such services, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract with Job4Blue is 12 months, commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for said services for an administrative fee of no more than 8% of any off-duty revenue assessed to the vendor requesting the off-duty police services at no cost to the Borough; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, that the Borough Administrator, Borough

Clerk and other officials as is necessary and proper be authorized to execute such documents necessary to implement this Contract.

RESOLUTION 23-50

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes, Passaic County, State of New Jersey, (hereinafter referred to as the "Borough") is a jurisdiction governed by Title 11A and the regulations and rules established under Title 4A of the Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S3220, P.L. 2021, C.7 signed February 4, 2021 permits municipalities to hire police officers who may not have taken an open competitive examination for the title of Police Officer, but are otherwise duly qualified; and

WHEREAS, the legislation also requires that a municipal or county police department may hire a person for an entry-level law enforcement position under this exemption upon the adoption of a conflict of interest and nepotism policy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough adopted policies governing nepotism and conflicts of interest as outlined in Resolution 22-261; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate this policy, a municipality must affirmatively "opt in" by adopting a Resolution authorizing such a hiring policy; and

WHEREAS, Police Chief Derek Clark has recommended that the Borough effectuate this policy and "opt in" to this program in the interests of efficiency, expediency and the promotion of public safety within the Borough of Pompton Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council desire to "Opt In" and said provision shall remain valid until December 31, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, for the reasons set forth above hereby authorizes such hiring policies as set forth in Senate Bill S3220, P.L. 2021, C.7.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

RESOLUTION 23-51

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes Construction Department requires the continued provision of services relating to the software product licensing and maintenance and supplemental software support; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Construction Official the continued use of the Mitchell Software module FastTrackGov is critical to Department operations; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Purchase and Property of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury solicited competitive proposals with allowances for cooperative purchasing available to all public purchasing entities throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Dell is the authorized software reseller as approved by the State of New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property, and has been signed contract number 2-Tele-01510 and whereby Mitchell Humphrey & Co is an authorized distributor per Dell contract number; thereby affording the Borough, a member of the Cooperative, the opportunity of direct purchases without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the contract cost for year 2023 is not to exceed \$27,120; and

WHEREAS, contract awards for future years is contingent on available funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, in the County of Passaic, New Jersey, that the Borough Administrator is authorized to enter into a contract with Mitchell Humphrey & Co for Software and Product Licensing and Supplemental Software Product for and amount not to exceed \$27,120.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer has certified to available funds in the 2023 temporary budget and an appropriation of funds shall be included in the 2023 adopted budget.

RESOLUTION 23-52

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 21-216 authorized the Borough of Pompton Lakes to enter into a purchase agreement with Houston-Gavelston Area Council (HGAC) for the purchase of a Ladder truck; and

WHEREAS, said resolution authorized a prepayment for the Pierce Arrow XT Chassis and Aerial Device totaling \$908,641.00 to receive a credit of \$27,181.06 on the final invoice.

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds are available in account #C-04-655-857-901.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey that they hereby authorize payment to HGAC in the amount of \$908,641.00 to achieve a credit of \$27,181.06 on the final invoice.

SEPARATE ACTION RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 23-39 Authorizing The Award Of A Contract For Professional Attorney Services To Decotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, & Giblin, LLP
2. Resolution 23-40 Authorizing The Award Of A Contract For Professional Risk Manager Services to David M. Hundertmark Agency Inc.
3. Resolution 23-41 Authorizing The Award Of A Contract For Professional Municipal Auditor Services To Wielkotz & Company LLC

RESOLUTION 23-39

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes has a need to acquire professional Attorney Services for the year of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq. provides for the award of professional services without engaging in the bidding process, to a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Local Unit "Pay to Play Law", N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.5 the Borough sought professionals to perform the desired professional services through the use of a "fair and open" process as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A:20.7; and

WHEREAS, as required by law the Borough solicited a Request for Qualifications for professional services through the utilization of the Borough and NJ League of Municipalities' websites and opened and read aloud submissions on December 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds will be made available in the 2023 temporary and adopted budgets to cover the cost of solicited services; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract shall be January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Decotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, & Giblin, LLP has submitted required documentation pursuant to N.J.S.A.: 10:5-31 et seq., 52:32-44 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq. and 19:44A - 20.27 (advisory only).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 25th day of January, 2023 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The award of contract for professional Attorney services be awarded to Decotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, & Giblin, LLP, 61 South Paramus Road – Suite 250, Paramus, NJ 07652 as set forth in the professional’s response to the Request for Qualifications.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract with Decotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, & Giblin, LLP.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the Suburban Trends by the Borough Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilwoman Kent to approve Resolution 23-39.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, No, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

RESOLUTION 23-40

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes has a need to acquire professional Risk Manager Services for the year of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq. provides for the award of professional services without engaging in the bidding process, to a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Local Unit “Pay to Play Law”, N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.5 the Borough sought professionals to perform the desired professional services through the use of a “fair and open” process as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A:20.7; and

WHEREAS, as required by law the Borough solicited a Request for Qualifications for professional services through the utilization of the Borough and NJ League of Municipalities’ websites and opened and read aloud submissions on December 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds will be made available in the 2023 temporary and adopted budgets to cover the cost of solicited services; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract shall be January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, **GJEM/Otterstedt Insurance Agency** has submitted required documentation pursuant to N.J.S.A.: 10:5-31 et seq., 52:32-44 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq. and 19:44A - 20.27 (advisory only).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 25th day of January, 2023 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The award of contract for professional risk management services be awarded to GJEM/Otterstedt Insurance Agency., 363 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666 as set forth in the professional’s response to the Request for Qualifications.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract with GJEM/Otterstedt Insurance Agency.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the Suburban Trends by the Borough Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Kent to approve Resolution 23-40.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

RESOLUTION 23-41

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pompton Lakes has a need to acquire professional Municipal Auditor Services for the year of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40:11-1 et seq. provides for the award of professional services without engaging in the bidding process, to a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Local Unit “Pay to Play Law”, N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.5 the Borough sought professionals to perform the desired professional services through the use of a “fair and open” process as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A:20.7; and

WHEREAS, as required by law the Borough solicited a Request for Qualifications for professional services through the utilization of the Borough and NJ League of Municipalities’ websites and opened and read aloud submissions on December 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds will be made available in the 2023 temporary and adopted budgets to cover the cost of solicited services; and

WHEREAS, the term of the contract shall be January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Wielkocz & Company LLC has submitted required documentation pursuant to N.J.S.A.: 10:5-31 et seq., 52:32-44 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq. and 19:44A - 20.27 (advisory only).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 25th day of January, 2023 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The award of contract for professional municipal auditing services be awarded to Wielkocz & Company LLC, 401 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442 as set forth in the professional’s response to the Request for Qualifications.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract with Wielkocz & Company LLC.

A copy of this Resolution shall be published in the Suburban Trends by the Borough Clerk as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage and a true copy of same shall be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilman Cruz to approve Resolution 23-41.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, No, Councilwoman Polidori, No, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

(Ordinances will be presented for second reading and final adoption on January 25, 2023)

ORDINANCE NO. 23-07

AN ORDINANCE, AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES ENTITLED “REGISTRATION OF FORECLOSING MORTGAGED PROPERTY AND VACANT PROPERTY”

Councilman DeLine provided some input and stated an Ordinance was previously passed in 2020 and as a result of changes to State law the Ordinance will need to be amended. The renewals for vacant property registration was prepared semi-annually and now it must be completed annually.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Polidori to approve Ordinance 23-07 for Introduction.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES - TRAILS COMMITTEE

Motion moved by Councilman Baig, second by Councilwoman Polidori to approve Ordinance 23-08 for Introduction.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION:

(These Ordinances have been advertised and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board)

ORDINANCE NO. 23-01

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH THE POMPTON LAKES RIVERDALE LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilwoman Kent to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-01. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment.

Motion moved by Councilman Cruz, second by Councilman DeLine to close the Meeting for public comments Ordinance No. 23-01. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman Baig, second by Councilman Venin to approve Ordinance No.23-01 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-02

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH THE POMPTON LAKES RIVERDALE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman Cruz to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-02. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman DeLine to close the Meeting for public comments Ordinance No. 23-02. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Baig to approve Ordinance No.23-02 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE NO.23-03

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH THE POMPTON LAKES YOUTH ORGANIZATION, INC.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine , second by Councilwoman Polidori to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-03. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to close the Meeting for public comments Ordinance No. 23-03. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Polidori to approve Ordinance No.23-02 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-04

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A LEASE WITH THE POMPTON LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilwoman Polidori to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-04. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to close the Meeting for public comments Ordinance No. 23-04. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to approve Ordinance No.23-04 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-05

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT AND REPEATER UTILIZATION AGREEMENT WITH NORTH JERSEY POLICE RADIO ASSOCIATION PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:12-5 (a)(1)

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Baig to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-05. All voted in favor of the motion.

No one from the public wished to comment.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to close the Meeting for public comments Ordinance No. 23-05. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Baig to approve Ordinance No.23-05 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

ORDINANCE 23-06

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARY RANGES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF POMPTON LAKES, COUNTY OF PASSAIC AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilwoman Kent to open the Meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 23-06. All voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion:

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton questioned if the salary ranges were standard among municipalities. Mayor Serra responded and stated towns normally set a salary range. Ms. Cozzarelli stated this is based upon historical data and avoids the need to amend the Ordinance for several years..

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to close the Meeting for public comments for Ordinance No. 23-06. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Venin to approve Ordinance No.23-06 for Final Adoption.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

MAYOR MICHAEL SERRA:

Mayor Serra moves the following for advice and consent of Council for the *2023 Appointments*.

Mayor Serra moves to nominate the following with advice and consent of Council: Lorie Teggert as an Alternate #1 Commissioner to the Pompton Lakes Recreation Commission (unexpired term to end December 31, 2023). All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

Mayor Serra moves to nominate the following with advice and consent of Council: Colleen Dawson as an Alternate #2 Commissioner to the Pompton Lakes Recreation Commission (unexpired term to end December 31, 2027). All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call: Councilman DeLine, Yes, Councilwoman Kent, Yes, Councilwoman Polidori, Yes, Councilman Venin, Yes, Councilman Baig, Yes, Councilman Cruz, Yes.

Mayor Serra to appoint Steve Edgeller as an Alternate 1 Member to the Pompton Lakes Planning Board (unexpired term to end December 31, 2023).

Mayor Serra to appoint William Pendexter as a Class IV Member to the Pompton Lakes Planning Board (unexpired term to end December 31, 2023).

Mayor Serra reported on the following.

- thanked all First Responders for their assistance during the fire and explosion that occurred in the Borough last week
- attended numerous department meetings and administered the Oaths of Office to appointed members
- chaired the Open Space Committee. Mayor Serra stated during the meeting the Willow Field project along with future projects were discussed.
- update on several personnel issues

- thanked the Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) for sponsoring the Winterfest and stated residents enjoyed the activities that were offered during the event
- thanked the Pompton Lakes Volunteer Firefighters for their service to the community

COUNCIL PRESIDENT POLIDORI:

Councilwoman Polidori reported on the following.

- thanked the First Responders the their quick response and assistance during the fire and explosion last week
- thanked Mr. Kent for the generous donation provided by the *PAL*
- thanked the Business Improvement District for sponsoring the Winterfest
- attended the Open Space meeting and looks forward to the next project
- commented on the possible purchase of *Flags for Heroes* to honor the memory of past and present service members
- commented on the possibility of the Business Improvement District sponsoring a *Food Festival* offering different types of cuisine. Additional information to follow.
- thanked all the residents who attended the Redevelopment Agency meeting and voiced their concerns regarding the progress and impact on the services the town provides

Discussion

Councilwoman Polidori requested Mr. Semeraro provide clarification in regards to Council Members attending Borough meetings and social settings with the public such as “Coffee with the Council.” Mr. Semeraro detailed his reply with various scenarios and stated if there is a quorum, he advises out of an abundance of caution, every Council Member not to engage in or discuss Borough business. Mr. Semeraro ultimately advised Council not to have a quorum of Council Members present (*four members*) with general public meetings or at Borough meetings to avoid the possibility of creating a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. Mr. Semeraro would further research this matter. Mayor Serra stated he agrees with the Borough Attorney and he would monitor the number of Council Members at Borough public meetings to be sure there is not a quorum present.

Councilwoman Polidori suggested a transparency policy by videotaping Redevelopment, Planning and Zoning Board meetings. On the behalf of the Governing Body’s request Mr. Semeraro will research the possibility of videotaping Borough meetings for boards, committees and agencies that perform official duties with regard to transparency and obligation of the Borough. Mayor Serra to inquire whether additional technology fees would apply to convert and post videos to the community channel PLTV 77.

Mayor Serra stated an illustration by Reed Goldberg, an elementary school student, will be featured in the Passaic County calendar.

COUNCILMAN CRUZ:

Councilman Cruz reported on the following.

- commented on the fire and explosion last week and stated he is thankful that all the firefighters are safe

COUNCILMAN DELINE:

Councilman DeLine reported on the following.

- congratulated and thanked the firefighters who were sworn in this evening
- thanked the *PAL* for the donation to the Borough and to the *PLRYO* for stepping in to continue the program
- John Wegele, Superintendent of the Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) announced he would be retiring as of July 1, 2023. Operations Manager, Bill Doty, is a likely candidate for his replacement.

- commented on the MUA water and sewer mark outs including two emergency mark outs. Councilman DeLine provided a review of the status of projects including redevelopment projects.
- the Capodaglia project is under technical review – there is sufficient sewer capacity for the approved development
- MUA is looking into the replacement of the water main along Ringwood Avenue –project on hold
- as liaison to the Redevelopment Agency he announced that a project was presented by the 201 Wanaque Avenue (Smith site) and the proposed plans for the building included six stories. Councilman DeLine commented on the previous economic study and the requirements for COAH was not feasible in the downtown area. Developers must provide 7% of the total number of units for affordable housing.
- to be considered by the Governing Body in the future – an access agreement for the Pond Hole parking lot into the rear entrance of the proposed parking structure. Any easement may affect structurally the ability of what will be done in the future.
- provided concerns that were discussed during the Redevelopment Agency meeting; the loss of commercial space on Colfax Avenue, fire safety and access, overall building access, trash removal, etc. The proposed project will be brought back to the Agency with required changes.
- several trustees were reappointed to their positions on the Library Board. The Library Director noted Library activity is slowly increasing; Children’s Story Time winter session is currently being held; *Friends of the Library* are hosting a film series called Book to Screen-including several renowned movies; there are two new digital services available at the Library – Pronunciator and Pro- Citizen.
- the Zoning Board of Adjustment held its Reorganization meeting with no items on the agenda

Mayor Serra commented on the proposed project that was discussed during the Redevelopment Agency Meeting and the members were opposed to the project plans. Mayor Serra stated members had concerns with the size and number of units and the developers were advised to scale down the project

COUNCILWOMAN KENT:

Councilwoman Kent reported on the following.

- thanked the First Responders for their service and courage
- thanked Mr. Hinton for reporting the damage incurred with the dedication stone at Pacifico Gallo Park. Councilwoman Kent also thanked the DPW for their assistance.
- the Recreation Commission has a detailed schedule of events posted on their Pompton Lakes Facebook page
- commented on the Open Space Committee meeting she attended and she is looking forward to upcoming projects
- the Environmental Committee received for the first time a detailed engineering TWA (*Treatment Water Approval*) application for redevelopment and was asked for their comments but missed the filing date. The Municipal Utilities Authority will be making their own reports regarding this application.
- attended the Teen Winter Dance. Refreshments were served by members of the Zonta Club.
- attended the successful Winterfest
- would like the Borough to present a *Service Award* to John Wegele, MUA Water Systems Operator, on his retirement

COUNCILMAN VENIN:

Councilman Venin reported on the following.

- congratulated members of the Fire Department for their service to the community
- Pompton Lakes will be listed along the Passaic County Black Heritage Trail - more details to follow
- commented on Winterfest and thanked the community for their participation

- attended the Planning Board Reorganization meeting

COUNCILMAN BAIG:

Councilman Baig had no report.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**MARK SEMERARO, Borough Attorney**

Mr. Semeraro reported on the following.

- thanked the Governing Body and Administration for their support in his appointment and looks forward to working with them in the future
- the Borough has taken the necessary steps to participate in the Opioid Class Action settlement and should receive approximately \$93,000.00 from the Federal Government

PAULA COZZARELLI, Borough Administrator

Ms. Cozzarelli reported on the following.

- local Recreation Improvement Grant was awarded for an additional \$100,000.00 for the Willow Field Project
- reached out to the grant writer, regarding the Assistance Fire Fighter Grant and requested a refund for the fire truck, and is awaiting a response
- provided a budget update and all departments to meet with Ms. Cozzarelli. Data will be compiled and presented to the Finance Committee and after their review, the budget information will be presented to the Governing Body in a public forum.
- commented on the recent home explosion and expressed her concerns for the fire fighters and stated she is very thankful they were not seriously injured
- a transaction of funds occurred recently in order to cover certain legal bills. Ms. Cozzarelli stated there was extensive discussion on the matter of Borough Council representation and what should be extended to the Borough Council vs. Escrow accounts. It was determined that \$113,392.00 charged to the Borough for, general counsel, labor council and tax appeal. Ms. Cozzarelli stated this transfer amount would also cover other additional legal fees.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman Baig to open the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

NICOLE MARITATO, Ringwood Avenue

Ms. Maritato stated she is a 20-year resident and recently began attending public meetings and commented on a recent Redevelopment Agency meeting she attended. Ms. Maritato voiced her concerns with the actions of an Agency member and stated his actions were directed towards a Borough Councilwoman and she felt they were inappropriate. Ms. Maritato stated those actions intimidate residents from attending public meetings, asking questions or expressing their concerns. Ms. Maritato requested clarification for the Open Public Meeting Law as it pertains to Council Members. Mayor Serra provided a response as to the Open Public Meeting Law as it pertains to Council Members. Mayor Serra noted if the Agency Attorney or Chairperson thought there was inappropriate behavior they would address the matter.

Councilwoman Polidori stated, during the Redevelopment Agency meeting, the inappropriate behavior was directed towards her from the dais and she was approached by the same Agency member in an inappropriate verbal manor after the meeting in Council Chambers.

Councilman Cruz expressed his concerns that residents may feel intimidated to attend and voice their opinions/concerns at public meetings due to unprofessional behavior displayed by board

members. Councilman Cruz assured Ms. Maritato and all residents they may speak with any Council Member - in person or by e-mail.

Councilman DeLine noted there is an audio recording, however not a video recording of the meeting.

AL EVANGELISTA, President of PL Fire Department

Mr. Evangelista wanted to thank the entire community for their outpouring of support for the Volunteer Fire Department. He also thanked the Governing Body for the support they have given the department throughout the years by providing the proper protective gear and equipment. Mr. Evangelista stated the Fire Department appreciates the respect given to them from the Governing Body and noted that the respect is mutual. Mr. Evangelista again thanked the community for the donations of food to the Firehouse, donations to the *Go Fund Me* site and donations to a special fund within the Fire Department.

Mr. Evangelista thanked the Governing Body for authorizing the purchase of the new ladder truck. Mr. Evangelista pointed out the amount of water it takes to put out electrical fires and implored the Governing Body to involve the Fire Department before final plans are drafted for new Redevelopment projects. Mr. Evangelista stated Resolution 23-52 is the first pre-payment of the chassis saves residents money and thanked the Governing Body for their support.

Mr. Evangelista commented on the *Flags for Heroes* banners and stated his concerns with the upkeep of the flags and the expense for veterans. Mr. Evangelista commented on the monument installed in front of the Municipal Building honoring World War I Veteran's and stated the monument should be located at Veteran's Park.

Mr. Evangelista stated in the past he has suggested a study for a traffic light at the corner of Wanaque and Colfax Avenues. Mr. Evangelista stated the Borough should petition the County to consider a traffic light to assist with traffic flow and speed especially as redevelopment projects progress.

Mr. Evangelista stated Municipal Meeting Agendas are not posted prior to the meetings. Mayor Serra replied and stated that the Agenda is always posted prior to meetings. Mr. Evangelista requested salaries and positions of all employees be posted to the website.

MIKE SIMONE, West Lenox Avenue

Mr. Simone thanked the Governing Body for the positive comments and support given towards the Fire Department. Mr. Simone commented on his position as Chairman of the Borough Planning Board and as a past Councilman and stated the public/residents should be courteous during meetings.

LISA KIHMBERG, Mountainside Drive

Ms. Kihlberg commented on the Redevelopment Agency meeting she attended and expressed concerns by the inappropriate behavior of a Board member that was directed toward a Council Member during and after the meeting.

PAUL BOWLBY, 120 Romain Avenue

Mr. Bowlby also attended the Redevelopment Agency meeting and stated he did not observe any inappropriate behavior.

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton requested Redevelopment Agency meetings be televised. Mr. Hinton stated he attended the Redevelopment Agency meeting and witnessed the lack of respect by an Agency member towards a Councilperson.

Mr. Hinton commented on Ordinance No. 23-06 regarding the salary ranges of Borough employees and questioned the position of a Redevelopment Inspector. Ms. Cozzarelli commented on recent legislation that would result in a loss of revenue and stated this is for the Building Construction Sub Code Official. Ms. Cozzarelli stated the Borough does not employ a Redevelopment Inspector.

Mr. Hinton stated with the retirement of Mr. Wegele the Borough will be losing an invaluable employee; the *Flags for Heroes* banners should be maintained and opposed fees for veterans. Councilwoman Polidori replied and stated there is no profit and any fees involved are to cover expenses. The banners would be stored when not in use.

Motion moved by Councilman DeLine, second by Councilman Cruz to close the Meeting for public comments. All voted in favor of the motion.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Councilman DeLine questioned if the Borough received a report from the engineer for the Heimal property restoration. Ms. Cozzarelli replied and stated she is waiting for a reply from the engineer but she would follow up as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Kent thanked Ms. Cozzarelli for initiating the *Request for Quotes (RFQ)* process which provided the Borough the opportunity to solicit quotes from various vendors or contractors for specific projects. Councilwoman Kent indicated that the Governing Body voted for a new Insurance Risk Management firm this evening and stated she is very pleased that the vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Kent reported PLTV 77 is currently operating with no problems.

Councilwoman Kent thanked Mr. Evangelista for all he does for the Borough.

Councilman Baig commented on the fire and explosion in the Borough and stated he wanted to thank the First Responders for their assistance.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion moved by Councilwoman Polidori, second by Councilman Cruz to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:30 PM. All voted in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**ELIZABETH BRANDSNESS, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

**MICHAEL SERRA
MAYOR**

Dated: January 25, 2022