

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The following are the Minutes of the October 12, 2022 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 Michael Serra opened the Meeting and led participants in saluting the flag.

Mayor Serra 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:

Proclamation – Lloyd Kent / Pompton Lakes PAL Basketball

Mayor Serra presented a Proclamation to Mr. Lloyd Kent recognizing him for his outstanding public service rendered on behalf of the youth of Pompton Lakes. Mayor Serra acknowledged the ten years Mr. Kent has devoted to the Borough as a Councilman along with his involvement with the *Police Athletic League (PAL)* youth program.

Mr. Kent thanked the Governing Body and Administration for this honor. Mr. Kent also thanked the *Police Athletic League (PAL)* Board Members for their support. Mr. Kent acknowledged the founder of *PAL*, Rich Fleischer, along with Bill Baig and the programs first director, Jim Kelly.

Mr. Kent stated unfortunately the *PAL* program is closing and the *Pompton Lakes Riverdale Youth Organization (PLRYO)* has taken over the program.

Mr. Kent commented on past donations made to the *PAL* and the funds will go towards equipment/programs in the schools and the *PLRYO* program.

In closing, Mr. Kent thanked the Governing Body and stated it has been an honor to serve the community.

MAYOR SERRA UPDATES:

Mayor Serra provided an update for COVID and noted there have been forty-one known Covid cases last month. The Board of Health is sponsoring a Covid clinic at the Carnevale Center on November 4 between 3:00pm and 5:00pm.

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.

SCOTT SANDERS, Garden Road

Mr. Sanders thanked the Governing Body and the Police Department for enforcing parking regulations on Garden Road during sporting events. Mayor Serra stated during events parking was an issue and he is pleased with the new parking regulations.

PETER CHAZOTTE, Woodlawn Avenue

Mr. Chazotte commented on the placement of political signs and stated his political party had permission to place the signage on the property of a local business in Pompton Lakes. Mr.

Chazotte alleged the signs were removed from the opposing political party without the permission of the business owner and the party who placed the signs.

Borough Attorney, Mark Semeraro responded to the comments and alleged incident Mr. Chazotte referenced and stated he would advise the Mayor and Council not to respond to political matters.

TIM TROAST, Durham Street

Mr. Troast commented on the removal of political signs and disputed the accusations that were made by Mr. Chazotte. Mr. Troast stated there was a misunderstanding as well as miscommunication between the business owner and those involved in the alleged incident.

RANDY HINTON, Shade Tree Commissioner

Mr. Hinton commented on the escalation of the Spotted Lanternfly and stated he spoke with Dr. Amy Rowe, County Agent from Rutgers and inquired whether the County and State would offer assistance. Mr. Hinton stated Downes Tree Service has a contract to service several towns and the Shade Tree Liaison, Councilman DeLine, offered to contact the forester in the town where he works for advice on exterminating the Spotted Lanternfly. Pamphlets and cards were provided to the Mayor and Council.

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

MINUTES:

Motion moved by Councilwoman Kent, second by Councilman Venin to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2022. All voted in favor of the motion.

BILL LISTS: None

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

Current Fund	\$
Capital Fund	\$
Recreation Trust	\$
Unemployment	\$
Dog Trust Account	\$
Other Trust Account	\$
Clerk's Account	\$
Open Space Trust	\$

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 22-229 Authorizing the Approval of Payment No. 5 to 4 clean Up, Inc. In Connection With The Pond Hole Parking Lot Improvement Project In The Amount Of \$172,041.58

2. Resolution 22-230 Accepting The Resignation Of Edward O'Donnell Jr., (Part-Time Dispatcher) From The Pompton Lakes Police Department

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

RESOLUTION 22-229

WHEREAS, 4 Clean Up, Inc. was awarded the contract for the Pond Hole Parking Lot Improvement Project in the amount of \$855,078.00; and

WHEREAS, pay estimate #5 has been approved by Ferriero Engineering in the amount of \$172,041.58 in connection with this project; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funds are available in capital accounts C-04-55-855-909, C-04-55-855-903 and C-04-55-851-905.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that it hereby approves pay No. 5 to 4 Clean Up, Inc. in the amount of \$172,041.58.

RESOLUTION 22-230

WHEREAS, Edward O'Donnell Jr. notified the Chief of Police that he would be resigning from his position of Part-Time Dispatcher effective October 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, his formal letter dated October 5, 2022 is on file with the Borough.

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 Edward for his service to the Borough and wishes him well in her future endeavors.

SEPARATE ACTION RESOLUTIONS: None

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION: None
(Ordinances will be presented for second reading and final adoption on 2022)

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION: None
(These Ordinances have been advertised and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board)

MAYOR MICHAEL SERRA:

Mayor Serra reported on the following.

- Wayne/Pompton Lakes Health Department will provide a Covid/Flu Vaccine Clinic on November 4, 2022 between 3pm and 5 pm at the Carnevale Center. Bring vaccine cards if planning to attend.
- thanked Ms. Troast and Ms. Brandsness for their work with the CRS program
- commented on a meeting he attended with Meridia regarding the Downtown Redevelopment project; waiting for a sewer license from the State. Meridia plans to work through the winter.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT POLIDORI:

Councilwoman Polidori reported on the following.

- thanked Mr. Kent for his time and service to the *PAL* program and stated the Proclamation he received this evening was well deserved
- attended the Fire Department Open House and stated the program promoted fire safety and prevention

- attended *Coffee with a Council* at the 506 Café
- attended the Chamber of Commerce/BID Car Show and thanked everyone who attended
- commented on the *Grand Reopening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* at Da Shop
- attended a meeting with Mr. Gene Hoffman, Columbia Bank Branch Manager along with children who attend Windsor School and presented a check to the school children for supplies to refurbish the gardens located on the VFW property adjacent to the school. Councilwoman Polidori stated the Pompton Lakes Woman's Club contributed \$50.00 towards the project along with daffodils that were donated through the City Green grant program Councilman Venin initiated.
- the design for the sculpture at Lakeside Park has been finalized and the project is scheduled to begin on October 20, 2022
- Councilwoman Polidori requested the Borough begin to implement Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for annual professional services. Ms. Cozzarelli provided input and stated a Request for Qualifications from professionals is used in the formal process of pre-qualification for the procurement process for a product or service. After further discussions, Council agreed to a Request for Qualifications for professionals.

COUNCILMAN BAIG:

Councilman Baig reported on the following.

- commented on the Police Department report for the month of September, 2022
- commented on the Fire Department report for the month of September, 2022
- commented on the First Aid Squad report for the month of September, 2022

Mayor Serra announced the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would sponsor and participate in a Borough wide simulation of a communication outage on October 19, 2022. Mayor Serra stated he wanted to alert the community the simulation would be a practice drill.

COUNCILMAN CRUZ:

Councilman Cruz reported on the following.

Motion moved by Councilman Cruz, second by Councilman Baig to approve the request of St. Mary's Church to close one roadway travel lane of Hamburg Turnpike, Ringwood Avenue and Wanaque Avenue 7:30am to 8:30am on Sunday, December 11, 2022 for the procession of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Passaic County Commissioners, Hundertmark Agency, Police and Fire Departments have been notified.) All voted in favor of the motion.

- the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Testing offered a detailed report regarding the assessment of children in the district
- commented on the graduating class of 2022 report that can be found on the School District website.
- a new application will begin in 2023 providing better reporting capabilities giving parents a better outlook into their child's progress
- the *Family Fall Festival* will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 12:00pm – 4:00pm at Hershfield Park
- the Halloween Hunt will be held on October 23, 2022 at Hershfield Park beginning at 7:00pm. The hunt includes toddlers to 8th grade.
- Special Needs Explorer Play will be held October 22, 2022 at 1:00pm at St. Mary's Carnevale Center
- *pickle ball* is held on Monday nights from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the tennis courts in Hershfield Park
- the Pompton Lakes Business Improvement District Scarecrow contest will be held on October 15, 2022 at the Library
- PLRYO (Pompton Lakes Riverdale Youth Organization) Basketball registration will be held on October 12, 2022 through the third week of October

- the Pompton Lakes Education Foundation (PLEF) Wine Tasting Sunday will be held on November 6, 2022 from 3pm-6pm/\$45.00 donation

Mayor Serra commented on the power outage that occurred on Saturday, October 8, 2022 and thanked Jersey Central Power and Electric (JCP&L) for their responsiveness to his calls during the outage. Mayor Serra urged residents to report power outages to JCP&L (do not call 911) as the number of reported calls triggers the response and resources dedicated to the outage.

COUNCILMAN DELINE:

Councilman DeLine reported on the following.

- attended Coffee with the Council
- attended the Chamber of Commerce/Business Improvement District/ (BID)Car Show
- attended the Ribbon Cutting at Da Shop
- attended the Fire Department Open House and thanked the Fire Department members for hosting the event and welcoming the public
- the Shade Tree Commission discussed tree and fencing concerns that were presented by homeowners who live on Hunter Place and back up to the Town Square Shopping Center
- commented on the Spotted Lanternfly dilemma and stated residents do not need to report the sightings to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Councilman DeLine reminded residents to stomp them out, scrape the egg masses and destroy.
- a Planning Board meeting is scheduled to be held on October 18, 2022 at 8:00pm. The amendments to the Site Plan for the Soaring Car Wash are on the Agenda.
- Community Rating System (CRS) incentive program encourages floodplain management that exceeds the National Flood Insurance Program is a continuous undertaking. Councilman DeLine read an e-mail from Ms. Brandsness that stated the time and effort from all involved in maintaining a Class 5 status. Ms. Brandsness acknowledged OEM Coordinator, Al Evangelista, Construction Official, Sal Poli, DPW Superintendent, Dan O'Rourke, along with Flood Advisory Board volunteers for their assistance. Ms. Brandsness also acknowledged Ms. Troast for her efforts in the submission of the Annual Recertification packet. Ms. Brandsness detailed the benefits of the program and noted residents can receive up to 25% discounts on the flood insurance premiums. Councilman DeLine stated he and the Governing Body thank Ms. Brandsness for her time and involvement with attaining the required activities to maintain the CRS program on a yearly basis.
- congratulated Mr. Kent on the well-deserved honor he received this evening
- wished Councilwoman Polidori Happy Birthday

Mayor Serra stated Michael Drazek, Library Director, provided a name for an interested person to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees; appointment to be made to the Board of Trustees if Council in agreement to appoint candidate.

COUNCILWOMAN KENT:

Councilwoman Kent reported on the following.

- commented on the annual progress report for CRS and thanked Ms. Brandsness for all she does as the CRS Coordinator.
- thanked Dave Kulp, of DMK, for completing the undertaking of removing downed trees from the rivers. As soon as the NJDEP permit is released, the desilting and desnagging of debris will commence. Councilwoman Kent thanked Mr. Doncoes for his continued commitment in reporting downed trees, debris etc. in the rivers.
- commented on the Proclamation presented to her husband Lloyd Kent and acknowledged his participation and leadership in the *Police Athletic League (PAL)* organization and the work required with running the program. Councilwoman Kent recognized the volunteers for the success of the program. Councilwoman Kent

stated she was thankful the Pompton Lakes Riverdale Youth Organization and Councilman Cruz agreed to continue to manage the program.

- thanked the Fire Department for sponsoring the Open House and appreciated the handouts given to the children
- commented on the growing infiltration of the Spotted Lanternfly and stated she would collaborate with Mr. Hinton to jointly seek a solution to the problem
- attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for *Da Shop*
- the Chamber of Commerce/BID Car Show was a huge success and stated a tribute was made to a longtime resident, Mark Warren, who recently passed away
- reminded residents trash collection would be once a week and informed residents to check their calendars. Leaves are to be collected in leaf bags or trash receptacles for pick up. Leaf bags can be purchased at the Recycling Center.
- thanked Ms. Cozzarelli for the five recycling containers from the Clean Communities Grant. Councilwoman Kent thanked the Department of Public Works and Pompton Lakes Riverdale Youth Organization for their determination in recycling bottles and cans at the fields.
- the Environmental Committee and the Business Improvement District (BID) will finalize their movie program on TikTok regarding litter in the Borough. The BID will donate \$100.00 in Bid Bucks to the TikTok movie winner.

COUNCILMAN VENIN:

Councilman Venin reported on the following.

- congratulated Lloyd Kent for his service and the Proclamation he received this evening
- commented on the successful Car Show
- congratulated owner Vince Fierro on the *Grand Reopening of Da Shop*
- the Red Bud trees the Borough received from City Green are ready for pick up. The Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Commission will coordinate the planting of the trees
- Pompton Reformed Church is sponsoring *Autumn Fest* on Saturday, October 15, 2022

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

MARK SEMERARO, Borough Attorney

Mr. Semeraro had no report.

PAULA COZZARELLI, Borough Administrator

Ms. Cozzarelli reported on the following.

- working with Chief Clark and Captain Cichon on the Automated License Plate Recognition Technology Grant from the State. Ms. Cozzarelli offered some specifics as to the technology and data the device offers. The technology works in conjunction with the State and County targeting people with a police record/warrants that may pose a threat to the public.
- the yearly Best Practices Inventory requires New Jersey Municipalities to comply or report competencies in government management, including operations, financing, etc. The Local Finance Notice was circulated to New Jersey Municipalities providing the details for the program and the Best Practices policy will be completed for the November 2022. Ms. Cozzarelli noted State funding is based on Borough response and scoring.
- thanked Mr. Evangelista and DMK for the removal of trees in the rivers under *Permit By Rule*. Ms. Cozzarelli stated he removed the trees from established access points.
- a Finance Meeting is approaching and she will be planning future Capital Projects which will include road surfacing.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

JEFF KINON, Ringwood Avenue

Mr. Kinon commented on the power outage that targeted several areas in the Borough and inquired as to who provides the backup generators for traffic lights. Mr. Evangelista responded and stated the Borough has provided the generators for the past five years. Mr. Kinon commented on the Chamber of Commerce/BID Car Show and stated it was an enjoyable event.

RICH GREENBERG, Washington Avenue

Mr. Greenberg commented on the removal of trees in the rivers and questioned the location of the trees. Ms. Cozzarelli replied and stated Mr. Kulp was able to remove trees through established access points. Ms. Cozzarelli explained the NJ Department of Environmental Protection does not allow the Borough to destroy the riparian zone or remove any vegetation from protected areas.

Mayor Serra stated the Flood Advisory Board surveys the rivers by way of drone, kayak and by foot to identify downed trees in the rivers that need to be removed. Mayor Serra stated the gathered information by the Flood Advisory Board is provided to the Governing Body and the removal of the trees is a coordinated effort between the Administrator and the hired excavator, DMK Construction Excavation.

AL EVANGELISTA, Office of Emergency Management

Mr. Evangelista commented on the Flood Advisory Board and stated a drone survey is performed annually of all rivers within the Borough's borders. Mr. Evangelista stated GPS (Global Positioning Systems) points are indicated on the Borough map and provided to Mr. Kulp. Mr. Evangelista stated he was assured by Mr. Kulp all three rivers had been cleared of fallen trees. Mr. Evangelista stated flood damage in the Borough has been significantly reduced and this strategy is effective and well documented. Mr. Evangelista stated when drones are prohibited from certain areas, Mr. Doncoes was helpful and volunteered to survey areas of concern by kayak.

RANDY HINTON, Montclair Avenue

Mr. Hinton inquired on the status of the former Woolworths Building that was located on Wanaque Avenue. Mayor Serra stated the inspectors have been in contact with the builders regarding this project. Mayor Serra stated the Borough is monitoring the project and if violations occur, fines will be issued.

Mr. Hinton requested an explanation as to the process for a Request for Qualifications from vendors. Ms. Cozzarelli replied and stated an *RFQ* is a Request for Qualifications for any professionals that perform professional services to the Borough; this includes the Borough Attorney and Arborist.

Mr. Hinton thanked Tim Duffy, DPW Supervisor, and staff members for their assistance for the removal of wood stalks and minor tree work in Hershfield Park.

Mr. Hinton questioned the power outage that occurred last week. Mayor Serra replied and stated several recovery boxes located within numerous towns experienced *blowouts* including the Riverdale substation, which affected 6,000 residents.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Councilwoman Kent commented on an article in a Wayne Magazine featuring Halloween displays and stated one of the homes is located in Pompton Lakes.

Councilman Baig stated he wanted to congratulate Lloyd Kent on his many years of service to the community. Councilman Baig commented on the Fire Department's successful Open House, the Chamber of Commerce/BID Car Show and the Grand Reopening of *Da Shop*.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION: None

Be it hereby resolved, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pompton Lakes hold Closed Session for the purpose of conducting discussions on negotiations and any other Closed Session topics as allowed under the Open Public Meetings Act. It is expected that the discussions undertaken in Closed Session on this date can be made public at the time official action is taken by the Mayor and Council to release same.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion moved by Councilman Venin, second by Councilwoman Polidori to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:46 PM. All voted in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

ELIZABETH BRANDSNESS, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MICHAEL SERRA
MAYOR

Dated: October 12, 2022