

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023
Council Chambers 7:30pm

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Criscuolo called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Council President Criscuolo asked all in attendance to join him in a Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Council President Criscuolo read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

"In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office."

ROLL CALL

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, and Council President Criscuolo were present. Councilwoman Sieg was absent.

Also present: Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Township Engineer Lisa Neiman, Township Clerk Karen Campanelli and Library Director Diane Sweatlock.

Council Comments

There were no Council comments this evening.

Business Administrator's Report

Mr. Rotella announced that the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 27th.

Township Engineer Report

Ms. Neiman reported that next week the Township will be taking bids for the Mark Lane Recreational Sports Lighting replacement project. She also reported that Chris is looking into a new USDOT grant opportunity that could potentially be used for clearing stream obstructions and bank stabilization projects, the funding is a \$100,000 minimum.

1st Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Donovan; second by Councilman Tolomeo to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Donovan; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to close the hearing of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING 2023 BERGEN COUNTY TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION

FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDING

Project(s): Upper Grove Library Park New Patio and Events Area

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo, second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to open the Public Hearing on the 2023 Bergen County Trust Fund Grant Application for the Upper Grove Library Park new Patio.

There being no questions or comments from the Public. Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilman Tolomeo to close the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to open the Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget.

There being no questions or comments from the Public. Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilman Tolomeo to close the Public Hearing

RESOLUTION

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay second by Councilman Donovan to approved Resolution #2023-125 — Adopt 2023 Budget as follows:

(Attached)

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, and Council President Criscuolo voted yes. Councilwoman Sieg was absent.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Donovan; second by Councilman Tolomeo to approve Resolution #2023-126 as follows:

Resolution #2023-126

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES April 24, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the April 24, 2023, Council meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, and Councilman Donovan voted yes. Council President Criscuolo abstained. Councilwoman Sieg was absent.

Motion by Councilman Donovan second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to approve Resolutions #2023-127 through #2023-133 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2023-127

REFUND

(Camp Have Some Fund Registration Fees)

WHEREAS, the following Individuals have requested a refund of their Camp Have Some Fun registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified the availability of funds in the Recreation Account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that said refunds are approved and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue municipal checks payable as follows:

Payable to:

Sanan Cohrs
27 Bedford Road
Hillsdale, NJ 07642

Payable to:

Nehir Sertbas
251 Maple Avenue
Hillsdale, NJ 07642

Refund Amount: \$ 410.00

Refund Amount: \$ 410.00

Payable to:

Tiffany Pero
180 Oak Avenue South
River Vale, NJ 07675

Refund Amount: \$ 410.00

Resolution #2023-128

RESOLUTION

REFUND 2nd QUARTER PROPERTY TAX OVERPAYMENT

WHEREAS, a tax overpayment was received for the 2nd quarter of 2023 and the property owner has requested a refund of said overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Block 1901, Lot 18
816 Westwood Avenue
River Vale, NJ

Check payable to:

Paul DeStefano
883 Hilltop Terrace
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

Refund \$2,848.66

Resolution #2023-129

**Enabling Resolution - 2023 Bergen County Open Space, Recreation,
Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant
Municipal Park Improvement Program**

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“County Trust Fund”), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$75,000 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following projects: Township of River Vale Upper Grove (Library) Park Improvements

WHEREAS, the governing body/board has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement, and the Trust Fund for the Municipal Park Improvement Program application and instructions and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the governing body/board received held the required Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on May 8, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above-named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale:

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of May 12, 2023, as established by the County; and,
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Township Council of the Township of River Vale has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
3. That the Township Council of the Township of River Vale is committed to providing a dollar-for-dollar cash match for the project; and,
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Township Council of the Township of River Vale agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and,
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #2023-130

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH 2023

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to overall health and well-being, and all people experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, like physical illness, mental illness is a medical condition that can be treated effectively through prevention, early identification, and early intervention, and with effective treatment, all individuals with mental illness can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, mental illness affects one in five people in the United States, and the experience can be devastating for individuals and families with little knowledge or access to mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a multitude of mental health challenges for our community members of all ages, and connecting people to care is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, May is annually recognized throughout the nation as Mental Health Awareness Month,

WHEREAS, it is the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Stigma-Free Initiative in Bergen County with Paramus initially declaring itself a Stigma-Free Zone in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale declared themselves as a Stigma-Free Zone and will continue to support the Stigma-Free initiative,

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Zones aim to inspire public interest and open dialogue about stigma, raise awareness of the diseases of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the diseases of mental illness feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma; and,

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat the disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale recognizes the community needs and continues to support the efforts of the County of Bergen in continuing to be a Stigma-Free Zone.

Resolution #2023-131

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale is the owner of various surplus equipment which is listed on file with the Township Clerk and is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale desires to authorize the sale of this surplus equipment at a public sale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36, to the highest bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of River Vale hereby declares that the surplus equipment is no longer needed for public use.
2. The Township of River Vale and its officers are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to proceed with a public sale of said surplus equipment.
3. The notice of the date, time and place of the public sale together with a description of the surplus equipment and the conditions of sale, shall be published in *The Ridgewood News*, the official newspaper of the Township of River Vale, with the sale being held not less than seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) days after the publication of said notice. The surplus equipment will be sold on a cash basis to the highest bidder(s).
4. No limit shall be placed on the number of surplus equipment that can be purchased by any one bidder.
5. The Township has set a minimum price for each vehicle and reserves the right to reject any and all bids under the minimum price.

The resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #2023-132

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S3739/A5402 DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
FOURTH ROUND OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale endorses Bill S3739/A5402 preserving the currently established 3rd round obligations for an additional three years by legislating a pause in determining 4th round Affordable Housing obligations, including present and perspective need and related litigation, which is scheduled to commence in July of 2025; and,

WHEREAS, this would give all parties additional time to assess the efficacy and local impacts on the 3rd round agreements and give the legislature and the Governor time to reestablish their proper roles in balancing the needs of all stakeholders in this process; and,

WHEREAS, New Jersey's municipalities working through 3rd round obligations require more time than had been allotted given the cascading effects of COVID; and,

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Municipalities are still sorting out the ripple effects of COVID lockdowns on their tax base and land use plans; and,

WHEREAS, many builders are demanding more residential units than the infrastructure of our fully developed communities can safely and responsibly absorb faulting the post COVID record inflation that drives construction, debt financing and service costs to levels that incentivize builders to overreach; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities should be allowed to work towards appropriately meeting the 3rd round commitments before adding yet another layer that public health and safety welfare, limited infrastructure, hyper-local environmental and infrastructure challenges, and fiscal realities may show to be unrealistic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale strongly endorses Bill S3739/A5402 and believes extending our 3rd round obligation to 2028 will present a clearer picture of how each of the towns fared in meeting their goals and might also reveal the hyper-local environmental and infrastructure challenges each municipality is facing in achieving those goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of River Vale should be allowed to work towards appropriately meeting the 3rd round commitments, before adding yet another layer of unrealistic allocations – allocations that disregard the structural limitations, costs, and ancillary impacts on our already overburdened taxpayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, members of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly, the League of Municipalities, and all Bergen County towns.

Resolution #2023-133

REFUND

(RVCC 2023 Ladies League)

WHEREAS, the following residents have requested a refund of their 2023 River Vale Country Club Ladies League Membership fees; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified the availability of funds in the Golf Operating Account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that said refund is approved and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue municipal checks payable as follows:

Payable to:

Karla Norfleet
769 Rolling Hill Drive
River Vale, NJ 07675

Payable to:

Pat Mc Andrews
521 Piermont Ave. South, Apt 302
River Vale, NJ 07675

Refund Amount: \$ 320.00

Refund Amount: \$ 640.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, and Council President Criscuolo voted yes. Councilwoman Sieg was absent.

Ordinances for 1st Reading

ORDINANCE #415-2023

Motion to Introduce: Councilman Tolomeo

Second: Councilman Donovan

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 90 OF THE CODE ENTITLED CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM SECTION 90-4 "FEES"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chapter 90-4 of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ 90-4. Fees.

(3) Plumbing Subcode fees.

ADD

34. Pressure Reducing Valve: \$25.00 per item

(5) Mechanical Subcode Fees.

ADD

17. Pressure Reducing Valve: \$25.00 per item

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Tolomeo, Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, and Council President Criscuolo voted yes. Councilwoman Sieg was absent.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

There were no Ordinances for 2nd Reading this evening.

2nd Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Donovan, second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Donovan, second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to close the hearing of the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo; second by Councilman Donovan to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm.

Council President Paul Criscuolo

ATTEST:

Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

