

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 14, 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, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Criscuolo were present. Councilman Donovan was absent.

Also present: Mayor Mark Bromberg, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Township Engineer Lisa Neyman, and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bromberg reported that the Police Department Ice Cream with a Cop event was very successful. The Mayor also attended a very nice event at the Fire Department, celebrating former Chief John Tobin's 50 years of service. He added that this event coincided exactly with the 100-year anniversary of the Fire Department. Also, in attendance was Council Vice President Sieg.

Council Comments

Councilman Tolomeo reported that he had the privilege and honor of attending the Ice Cream with a Cop event on Thursday evening at the Community Center. He explained that the event was everything he expected and more, and that our Police Department is terrific. Councilman Tolomeo really enjoyed seeing the officers interact with the residents and kids.

Councilman Tolomeo added how important it is to have the Police Department we do and feels there's not a Police Department in the State that rivals ours.

Councilman Ben-Yishay had no comments this evening.

Councilwoman Sieg commented that unfortunately she couldn't attend the Ice Cream with a Cop event. She did attend the 50-year retirement luncheon for John Tobin and on August 13th it was also the Celebration of the 100 Year Anniversary of the Fire Department. Tom Shine Sr. gave a history of the Fire Department and past members during the event. Councilwoman Sieg commented that being in the Fire Department is a commitment, there's the respect the members have for one another and the dedication that you really don't see that much of anymore.

Councilwoman Sieg commented on how wonderful it was hearing about all the firemen in John's family, including his son who spoke and is a paid fireman in New York. She added that 50 years of service is dedication and love of what you do. Councilwoman Sieg felt truly honored to be there and extended her best wishes and congratulations to John Tobin and his family.

Council President Criscuolo had no comments this evening.

Business Administrator's Report

Mr. Rotella reported that October 1st is River Vale Day from 12:00 to 4:00 at Mark Lane. He next reported on a traffic study performed by the County on Piermont Avenue. He explained that the report concluded that the speed limit should be reduced from 40mph to 35mph.

He next reported that the Township received \$70,000 grant to create an ADA ramp to Pasch Park.

Mayor Bromberg also commented on the Piermont Avenue speed study. He explained that they are acting on the advice of their professionals and this is a safety issue. The Mayor further explained the reason for the reduction is due to increased activity from the Mark Lane Complex and the development at the Golf Course, additionally in Hillsdale the limit on Piermont has already been reduced to 35mph because of the schools.

Township Engineer Report

Ms. Neyman reported that the Township received bids for the Barrier -Free Improvements project at the River Vale Country which will be awarded this evening. She next report that the contractor for the 2023 Road Program is scheduled to start milling the week of August 21st and pending any weather issues the paving would start the following week.

Gennaro Rotella added that PSE&G will be installing a new gas main on Cedar Lane, from Piermont Avenue to Cedar Place starting in October.

1st Hearing of the Public

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

There being no questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Tolomeo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the hearing of the public.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Criscuolo tabled Resolutions #2023-189–Resolution Approving Minutes June 12, 2023 Council Meeting

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to approve Resolution #2023-190 as follows:

Resolution #2023-190

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES JULY 10, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the July 10, 2023, Council meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to approve Resolutions #2023-191 through Resolution #2023-197 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2023-191
RESOLUTION

CHAPTER 159

2023 Stormwater Assistance Grant

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4087 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when such item has been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale hereby requests that the Director of Local Government Services approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2023 in the sum of \$ 15,000.00 which is now available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Assistance Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$ 15,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Public and Private Programs.

Resolution #2023-192

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT

LEAF DISPOSAL FACILITY 2023-2024

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize the Township’s need for a facility to dispose of leaves collected each year; and

WHEREAS, as per *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(s)*, recycling contracts are not subject to public bidding requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Township award a contract to Organic Recycling, Inc., 121 Route 303, Orangeburg, New York 10962 at the following price for leaves that are delivered to their facility pursuant to their proposal:

\$13.50 per cubic yard for compacted leaves
\$11.50 per cubic yard for loose leaves

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the Current Operating Account.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Business Administration is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Organic Recycling Inc., for the disposal of leaves for the term of October 2023 through February 2024.

Resolution #2023-193

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO THE

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayoral appointment of the following individual to the Office of Emergency Management is hereby confirmed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
William MacRae	Deputy OEM Coordinator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Officer MacRae’s term as Deputy OEM Coordination is effective August 1, 2023, and expires December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the OEM Coordinator.

Resolution #2023-194

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT-TO-EXCEED LIMITATIONS FOR CHRISTOPHER P. STATILE
(2023 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM)**

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2023, the Township Engineer, Christopher P. Statile, P.A. submitted a proposal for the preparation of bid specifications and the provision of full-time inspection and monitoring services of the 2023 Road Resurfacing Program as follows.

- **Project Design, Specifications and Construction Monitoring Services in compliance with contract NJDOT specifications: \$ 34,500.00**

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds in the Capital Account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that not to exceed limitations are hereby approved and established in the amount of \$34,500.00 for the engineering firm of Christopher P. Statile, P.A.

Resolution #2023-195

RESOLUTION

REFUND PROPERTY TAX OVERPAYMENTS

WHEREAS, tax overpayments were received, and the property owners have requested a refund of said overpayments.

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

2nd Qtr. Overpayment

Block 403, Lot 8
590 Delcina Drive

Refund Amount: \$5,206.68

Payable & Mail to:

Pennymac Loan Servicing
Attn: Tax Department
6101 Condor Dr.
Moorpark, CA 93021

3rd Qtr. Overpayment

Block 1713, Lot 6
547 Byrant Place

Refund Amount: \$2,776.44

Payable & Mail to:

Carnegie Title, LLC
55 Harristown Road, Ste. 304
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Resolution #2023-196

RESOLUTION AWARDING RIVER VALE COUNTRY CLUB RESTROOMS

BARRIER-FREE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2023, the Township received bids for the River Vale Country Club Restrooms Barrier-Free Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, one bid received from Ranco Mechanical, LLC, 2 Melba Drive, Newton, New Jersey has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest responsible bidder at the price of

Base Bid: \$ 82,500

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed \$ 82,500 in the Community Development and Golf Course Capital Accounts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the bid from Ranco Mechanical, LLC is accepted as the lowest responsible bidder. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and requested to execute a Contract on behalf of the Township of River Vale for River Vale Country Club Restrooms Barrier-Free Improvements project the as described in the Bid Specifications.

Resolution #2023-197

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayoral appointment of Christopher Bulger as Chief of Police of the Township of River Vale is hereby confirmed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale

that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the employment agreement of the Chief of Police.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said agreement shall have an effective date commencing August 1, 2023 and expire on December 31, 2027.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

There were no Ordinances for 1st or 2nd Reading this evening.

2nd Hearing of the Public

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

There being no questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilwoman Sieg, second by Councilman Tolomeo to close the hearing of the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Tolomeo; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.

Council President Criscuolo

ATTEST:

Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

