

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Council Chambers 7:30pm

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

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

SALUTE TO FLAG

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

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

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

Also present: Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Township Engineer Christopher Statile, and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

Council Comments

Councilman Ben-Yishay had no comments this evening.

Councilman Donovan had no comments this evening.

Councilwoman Sieg reminded everyone that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and there is always a need for funding to help find cure for cancer.

Council President Bromberg commented that he saw the finished Pickle Ball Courts and that they came out beautiful, very well done.

Councilwoman Sieg questioned what has been decided regarding people using the courts in order to make it fair or is it just for residents only.

Gennaro responded that they haven't gotten to that point yet and they are currently gathering quotes for an electronic system. Mr. Rotella added that use will be restricted because it is a noisy sport. He added that the company that built the courts was great to work with and moved the project along very well.

Council President Bromberg thanked Chris Statile for all his work gathering grant funding for the project which helped defray the costs.

Business Administrator Report

Mr. Rotella announced that this Saturday the RVPD hosting the "Touch a Truck" event at Holdrum School between 10:00am to 12:00pm. This is a great event for the kids. He next reported that this Sunday is Town Day from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Mark Lane, there is also a 5K race in the morning before the event.

He next reviewed the resolution regarding the Township's Corrective Action Plan. Mr. Rotella reported that this was one of the best audits the Town has had. There was only one small item regarding the Fixed Asset Report, a piece of equipment was missed and has been corrected. Mr. Rotella next reported that every year in October we usually go through a tax sale, he was happy to report that we don't have a tax sale this year. He explained that Ada, our Tax Collector is always diligent about contacting the property owners and works with them to prevent their property from going to Tax Sale.

Mr. Rotella next reviewed the resolution creating a trust fund for the Lead Hazard Paint Inspection fees collected under the new State mandated guidelines.

Township Engineer Report

Mr. Statile agreed that the contractor for the Pickle Ball Courts did an excellent job, and the courts came out great. He reported that he is continuing working on the new Sprinkler System for the DPW Garage. Gennaro added that the paperwork with Veolia has been signed and the checks have been cut for this project. Mr. Statile gave an update on the Road Program, and the contractor expects to start work next week.

Councilwoman Sieg asked if Barr Court was in the Road Program. Mr. Statile responded that Barr Court is in the Program and scheduled to have drainage work done and then milled and paved. He further reported that four (4) catch basins are being added to the cul-de-sac.

Mr. Statile reported that he has prepared the presentation for the Water Shed Review Board for Gennaro to review. He added that the presentation will be in the Spring to acquire the property behind the DPW Building from Suez. Mr. Statile also has historic pictures from the 1960's establishing that the property was being used by the Township.

He next reported that PSE&G has just started excavating the roads for new gas main service. Council President Bromberg had questions regarding the Brookside Avenue Bike Path and whether they will still have a standard width road and what the typical road width is. Mr. Statile responded yes as he must follow State and Federal requirements, and the standard road width is 22 feet.

Councilwoman Sieg reported that the library patio is sinking and questioned if there are any grants opportunities available to help with the repair. Gennaro responded that he has spoken to the Library Director and discussed submitting an Open Space Grant Application in the future. Mr. Statile noted that any grant money would not be available until 2024. Councilwoman stressed the importance of maintaining our buildings. Mr. Statile also spoke to the Library Director about the roof and suggested putting up a gutter to help divert water away from the patio. Councilman Donovan added that we are looking for ways to help the library which is a step in the right direction.

1st 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 Councilwoman Sieg to close the hearing of the public.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2022-196 as follows:

Resolution #2022-196

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Regular meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL

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

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Donovan to approve Resolutions #2022-197 through #2022-203 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2022-197

**AUTHORIZE PERSON-TO PERSON TRANSFER OF
PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE**

#0253-33-007-009

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License number 0253-33-007-009, hereto issued to Let's Meat Steakhouse LLC located at 625 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated there under, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the license business.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale does hereby approves the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Let's Meat Group, LLC, and does hereby direct the Township Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "The license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Let's Meat Group, LLC effective October 11, 2022."

Resolution #2022-198

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2021 AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the 2021 Annual Audit of the Township of River Vale, conducted by Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP contained recommendations requiring action; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the recommendations and prepared a Corrective Action Plan for the 2021 Annual Audit, responding to the Audit Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Corrective Action Plan has been reviewed by the members of the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of River Vale 2021 Corrective Action Plan is hereby approved by the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale and approved for submission to the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution #2022-199

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE RIVER VALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Officers of the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department have approved the appointments of the following individuals as new members of the Fire Department:

- **Alexander Gruppuso**
- **John Whelan**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale hereby confirm the appointments of Alexander Gruppuso and John Whelan as new members of the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution #2022-200

RESOLUTION

CHAPTER 159

Click It or Ticket

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 that 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 2022 in the sum of \$ 7,000.00 which is now available from the New Jersey Division of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, Click It or Ticket Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$ 7,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Public and Private Programs.

Resolution #2022-201

RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR LEAD HAZARD ASSISTANCE FUNDS PER P.L. 2021, c.182.

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and,

WHEREAS, P.L. 2021, c. 182 provides for receipt of funds by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the *Lead Hazard Assistance Program* are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the *Lead Hazard Assistance Program* P.L. 2021, c. 182.
2. The Clerk is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of Local Government Services.

Resolution #2022-202

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale is applying for funding to conduct the construction of the Brookside Avenue Bike Path within Township of River Vale; and,

WHEREAS, the project will help to continue and improve the promotion and encouragement of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety for *school children and residents*; and,

WHEREAS, maintenance of the facility, once constructed, will be assumed by Township of River Vale with the exception of (1) local ordinances that places maintenance responsibility with each individual property owner, and (2) those crosswalks on State or County Highways.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of River Vale that it hereby supports the submission of a grant application for the *Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program* within the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation and authorizes the Mayor, Business Administrator and the Municipal Clerk to execute any and all documents necessary and related to the submission of said grant application or grant agreement.

Resolution #2022-203

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO THE JOINT PLANNING BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayoral appointment of following individual to the Joint Planning Board and their corresponding term is hereby confirmed.

- **Anthony LaSpada - (1) year term expiring December 31, 2022 (Alternate No. 2)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that a Certified Copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Joint Planning Board

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Ordinances for 1st Reading

There were no ordinances for 1st Reading.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading & Public Hearing

ORDINANCE #405-2022

Motion to Adopt: Councilman Donovan

Second: Councilman Ben-Yishay

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay, second by Councilwoman Sieg to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #405-2022.

There are being no comments or questions from the public, motion by councilman Donovan second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #405-2022.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 81 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" ARTICLE II "THROUGH STREETS AND STOP STREETS" SECTION 81-6.2 "STOP INTERSECTIONS"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Chapter 81 of the Code entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" Article II "Through Streets and Stop Streets" Section 81-6.2 "Stop Intersections" is hereby amended as follows:

§ 81-6.2. -27 Stop Intersections.

Intersection

Stop Sign on

Stuhr Place and Tiffany Avenue

Northeast side of Stuhr Place at Tiffany Avenue

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

2nd Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Donovan 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 Donovan; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

Council President Bromberg

ATTEST:
Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

