



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
REGULAR MEETING/
BUDGET INTRODUCTION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

March 24, 2020
7:30 P.M.

Borough Hall-Council Chambers
Emerson, NJ 07630



I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DiPaola called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the March 24th, 2020 Regular Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Emerson Governing Body. She said the meeting was being held in place of the originally scheduled meeting of March 17th, 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak. She noted that the meeting was being videotaped and could be viewed from a link on the Borough website as well as on Verizon FIOS Channel 36 and Cablevision Channel 77. She read the Sunshine Statement announcing that the meeting of March 24th, 2020 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Further, notice of this rescheduled meeting of March 24th, 2020 was sent to the Record and Ridgewood News on March 20th, 2020 and noticed to said newspapers; posted at the entrances to Borough Hall, on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute.

Access was provided to the general public via teleconferencing on the GoToMeeting application and a link and phone number to access the meeting was posted for the public.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor DiPaola (in person)

Present via teleconference: Council President Hoffman, Councilwoman Argenzia, Councilman Bayley, Councilwoman Dinallo, Councilman Gordon, Councilwoman McGuire

Also present were Borough Administrator Robert Hermansen and Borough Clerk Jane Dietsche (in person), and CFO Lauren Roehrer and Borough Attorney John McCann (via teleconference).

III. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

- Resignation of Denise Villani as Secretary to the Shade Tree Commission effective immediately

☞ **Motion** to approve the resignation of Denise Villani as Secretary to the Shade Tree Commission effective immediately was **moved** by Councilwoman McGuire, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

IV. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2020

☞ **Motion** to approve the Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2020 was **moved** by Councilman Gordon, **seconded** by Councilwoman McGuire and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

V. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- Resolution No. 76-20 Bill List

☞ **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 76-20 Bill List was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman Dinallo and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

- **INTRODUCTION OF 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

- Resolution No. 77-20 Authorizing Increase in Deferred School Taxes for Local District School Taxes

☞ **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 77-20 Authorizing Increase in Deferred School Taxes for Local District School Taxes was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman McGuire and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

Mayor DiPaola announced that the next order of business was the Introduction of Ordinances. Upon approval, this ordinance would be further considered at a Public Hearing to be held on April 7th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. either in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall, Municipal Pl., Emerson, NJ or by teleconference and published in The Record. All ordinances were posted on the Borough website and on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk in the Emerson Borough Hall, Municipal Place, Emerson, NJ. Should you need a hard copy please call Borough Hall and one will be mailed to you free of charge.

- **1610-20** BOROUGH OF EMERSON BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

☞ **Motion** to introduce Ordinance 1610-20 on first reading was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman Dinallo and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

- Resolution No. 78-20 GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO P.L. 2017, C.183 OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

☞ **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 78-20 was **moved** by Councilwoman McGuire, **seconded** by Councilman Gordon and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

- Resolution No. 79-20 Introduction of 2020 Municipal Budget

☞ **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 79-20 Introduction of 2020 Municipal Budget was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman McGuire and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

VI. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Second Reading and Public Hearing:

1609-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 73 PERSONNEL POLICIES BY ADDING ARTICLE VI. DRIVER'S LICENSE POLICY

☞ **Motion** to open the meeting to comments from the public on this ordinance only was **moved** by Councilman Gordon, **seconded** by Councilwoman McGuire and carried unanimously.

Hearing no requests for comments from the public on this ordinance only, Mayor DiPaola asked for a motion to close the meeting to comments from the public on this ordinance only.

☞ **Motion** to close the meeting to comments from the public on this ordinance only was **moved** by Councilman Gordon, **seconded** by Councilwoman Dinallo and carried unanimously.

☞ **Motion** to adopt Ordinance 1609-20 on second reading was **moved** by Councilwoman McGuire, **seconded** by Councilman Gordon and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

VII. REPORTS

- Mayor DiPaola said she would read a message which had been distributed to residents via Swiftreach that afternoon and noted that anyone who did not receive it could sign up for notifications on the Borough website. She also made everyone aware that the Police Department performed welfare check phone calls to seniors during states of emergency. If any resident of Emerson did not currently receive these phone calls and wished to be added to the list to be checked on, they should call 201-262-6086, option 9. If someone had a friend or neighbor who should be on the list, she asked that they call this number as well. Since her phone call had gone out that afternoon, she had been informed that Emerson had one new confirmed case of Covid-19 which brought the official total to two residents.

“This is Mayor Danielle DiPaola. I am calling to update you on what we as a Borough are doing in response to the Covid-19 health crisis. We are relieved to inform you that the Borough has only one confirmed case of Covid-19. As more testing occurs, we anticipate that there will be more cases. We are working with our health officials to do contact tracing to alert individuals who may have come in contact with the resident who tested positive. For HIPAA and privacy reasons, the Borough will not release the personal information of anyone who is confirmed to have received a positive test result.

By now, you are all aware of Governor Murphy’s Executive Orders placing restrictions on businesses and curfews for the entire State of New Jersey. These are critical steps to help us stop the spread of this virus. Please visit the borough website for links to the state website and for other updated information.

We must all do our part to be safe, stay healthy and take care of one another from a distance. With that in mind, I ask you to please stay in touch with each other, especially your elderly neighbors. If you have contact information for a senior or shut in and would like to add them to the Police Department call list, please contact the Borough Clerk at 201-262-6086 Option 9 and we will be sure to reach out to them to check on their welfare. In conclusion, if you do need to go out for essentials, please shop locally and support our local businesses which remain open. They are an essential part of our community.

I want you all to know that the Borough staff, emergency services and Governing Body are all going above and beyond to be sure that we are all safe and stay healthy. We will get through this time together. God bless you and God bless Emerson.”

- Administrator Rob Hermansen reported on the following:
 - They were doing everything to protect Emerson's residents and Borough employees during this health crisis. He added that a decision had been made to close Borough Hall to the public the previous week. All departments were open and functioning remotely as best as possible. He noted that anyone with any questions could contact him at his direct line 201-262-5077.
 - If anyone knew of a senior citizen or family in need of assistance during this crisis, he asked that they contact Mayor DiPaola or him. He added that there was a senior advocate who also called in regularly to make sure they were checking in on Emerson's seniors.
 - He thanked all department heads and employees for working so hard during such extenuating circumstances.
 - He said everyone was in an ever-changing environment and asked for patience as they navigated through this most difficult time in our Borough, our State and our Country.
 - The Red Cross and local hospitals were reminding people who could still donate blood to continue to do so.
 - He asked that all non-essential businesses remain closed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

☞ **Motion** to open the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia and carried unanimously at 7:56 p.m.

Hearing no requests for comment from the public, Mayor DiPaola asked for a motion to close the meeting to comments from the public.

☞ **Motion** to close the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Bayley, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia and carried unanimously at 7:56 p.m.

IX. RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA

☞ **Motion** to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions No. 80-20 through 83-20 was **moved** by Councilwoman Argenzia, **seconded** by Councilman Gordon and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Bayley, McGuire, Dinallo, Hoffman, Gordon, Argenzia

CA 80-20	Authorization for GFWC Woman's Club to Plant Pinwheel Garden in Front of Borough Hall
CA 81-20	Tax Lien Redemption 222 Ackerman Ave (Bl 501.03, Lt 22)
CA 82-20	Authorize Purchase of 2 Position AVTEC Scout Dispatch Console for Police Department
CA 83-20	Approval to Submit A Grant Application New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DiPaola said she wanted to thank everyone who had reached out to her and the members of the Governing Body to see how they were doing during this crisis. She added that it had been a very trying time and they were working their hardest to keep everything as normal as possible. She said she would be remiss if she did not give a huge shout out to OEM Coordinator Lieutenant Mark Savino and Deputy OEM Coordinator Perry Solimando and the members of the Department of Public Works who had been leading them during the State of Emergency in the most professional manner. She also thanked all department heads who had been working with everyone tirelessly until late into the evening and sometimes on the weekend. She gave a heartfelt thank you to everyone and said that Emerson had the best staff in the Pascack Valley if not in the entire State of New Jersey.

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor DiPaola, a motion to adjourn was **moved, seconded** and carried at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dietsche, RMC
Borough Clerk