

Borough of Palisades Park  
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
July 12, 2023

**Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Special Meeting at 6:01 P.M.**

**STATEMENT:**

This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

1. Notice was filed July 10, 2023 with The Record & Newark Star Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	Kim	Present
Councilperson	Jang	Present
"	Kim	Present
"	Min	Present
"	Park	Present
"	Pirrera	Present
"	Vietri	Present
Borough Attorney	Michael Collins, Esq.	Present
Borough Administrator	David Lorenzo	Present

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to enter Closed Session.

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Off Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-169. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-169 Authorization to Enter Closed Session

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act provides that the Mayor and Council may enter into Executive Session to discuss matters that are of a confidential nature, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator that the Mayor and Council enter into Executive Session to discuss matters set forth hereinafter which are permissible for discussion in Executive Session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the governing body shall enter into Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

Legal Issues, Litigation, Potential Litigation, Contract Negotiation, Attorney-Client Privilege – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)

Personnel – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(8)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, with an estimate of the circumstances and/or time for public disclosure provided in the above-listed anticipated times of decision ("ATOD").

At approximately 6:07 P.M., the Mayor and Council proceeded with the Closed Session inside the Mayor's Office.

At approximately 7:28 P.M., Mayor and Council returned to the dais and Councilman Kim made a motion to close the Closed Session and reopen the Special Meeting. Councilwoman Jang seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Yes

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Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes

Mayor Kim read a statement into the record.

“Dear Esteemed Councilmembers, I’ve asked for your support to join me today with the deep conviction that our utmost priority should be strict adherence to State statutes. It is of paramount importance in governing our town. It is imperative that we recognize the significance of complying with the law each and every day without delay or hesitation. Regrettably, our town has been plagued by a history of disregarding proper procedures and making unlawful mistakes resulting in financial burdens for the Borough and discontent among the residents of Palisades Park. In light of these circumstances it is incumbent upon us to rectify these issues to make sure that we operate within the framework of the law. We must take immediate steps to address the findings outlined in NJ State Comptroller’s Report to the best of our abilities. As public servants, it our own sworn duty to uphold the law, protect the interest of our constituents, and serve the public with integrity and diligence. In accordance with the responsibilities bestowed upon the office of the Mayor, it is my duty to present relevant local Ordinance and Resolutions to the esteemed Councilmembers before you for their consideration and vote. It is your esteemed duty as Councilmembers to carefully deliberate upon these matters and determine whether our actions align with the law or not. Let us remember that our collective decision making should be always guided by the principles of legality, fairness, and the overall betterment of our community. By upholding the law and fulfilling our obligations, we can restore confidence, promote transparency, and work towards a brighter future for Palisades Park and its residents. Thank you for your attention and commitment to the betterment of the town.”

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-170 Authorization of Korean American National Sports Festival Committee to Conduct Closing Ceremony at the Borough Hall

Councilwoman Pirrera wanted to make sure that there was a Certificate of Insurance. Mayor Kim said absolutely.

Mr. Collins stated that the Resolution was conditioned upon receipt of the Certificate of Insurance.

Councilwoman Jang made a motion to adopt Off Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-170. Councilman Min seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes  
Councilman Kim: Yes  
Councilman Min: Yes  
Councilman Park: Yes  
Councilwoman Pirrera: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes

**OFF CONSENT AGENDA:**

RESOLUTION 2023-171 Authorization of Corrective Action Regarding Employment Contract for Borough Administrator

Councilman Min made a motion to adopt Off Consent Agenda Resolution #2023-171. Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang: Yes

Councilman Kim stated that he commended the Mayor for what he was trying to do, but Councilman Kim did not think that the procedure was right.

Councilman Kim: No  
Councilman Min: Yes  
Councilman Park: Yes

Councilwoman Pirrera stated that after 25 years of being a Councilwoman, she was denied her request speak to the person involved.

Councilwoman Pirrera: No  
Councilman Vietri: No

Mr. Collins reminded the Council to refrain from any Executive Session discussions. Mayor Kim broke the tie, and he voted yes to adopt Resolution #2023-171. Motion passed.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

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Councilman Min had no report.

Councilwoman Jang had no report.

Councilwoman Pirrera had no report.

Councilman Park had no report.

Councilman Vietri had no report.

Councilman Kim had no report.

The Borough Administrator had no report.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Councilman Min made a motion to open to the public. Councilman Park seconded. The motion carried. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Susan Brauer asked about Resolution #2023-170. She asked about the date and time of the closing ceremony. She asked about Resolution #2023-171. The Mayor asked Mr. Collins to clarify the State law for the Borough Administrator's contract. Mr. Collins stated that the Resolution authorized the Mayor and Borough Attorney to draft and execute any instruments that would clarify the employment contract with the Borough Administrator to clarify that State law governed, which provides that the Borough Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Governing Body and is subject to removal by 2/3rds vote. This was State law.

Marsha Schor asked if the speech that the Mayor made applied to him also. Mayor Kim stated yes.

Youbong Won-Yoon asked if only one clause was being corrected because according to the 2021 OSC report there were a whole bunch of things. She said she was disappointed only one was being corrected. Councilwoman Pirrera answered that all items were reversed and already corrected. The Borough Administrator stated that this was corrected previously as well. Councilwoman Pirrera and Councilman Park were on the committee, and the Borough Attorney made sure that every item was corrected. Ms. Won-Yoon asked about the clause to terminate for cause. Mayor Kim said that the Mayor and Council corrected to comply and adhere to NJ Statute 40A. Mr. Collins reiterated the State law and the Resolution. Mr. Collins said that their office was in receipt of the State Comptroller's Report, and he was aware of the Council's concern that emanated from it. Mr. Collins said that their office would review the report. Mayor Kim said he wanted to sure everyone knew that the Mayor and Council did their best to address the OSC Report as much as they could.

Susan Brauer spoke about the length of time that Executive Sessions took. She said that they were all sitting in the building, and nothing had been done by the Governing Body to correct the mold situation. She wanted to know what was going on. Mayor Kim said that they were working on finding an answer for her.

Peter Longo said that he was under the impression that whether the Council voted for it or not, the clause about 2/3rds had to be followed because it was State law. Mr. Longo liked that the Borough Attorney would be reviewing the State Comptroller's Report.

Councilman Kim made a motion to close to the public. Councilman Min seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilwoman Pirrera made a motion to close to the public and adjourn. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Park:	Yes
Councilwoman Pirrera:	Yes

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Councilman Vietri: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC  
Borough Clerk

**RESOLUTION  
BOROUGH OF PALISADES PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jang		X	X			
Kim			X			
Min	X		X			
Park			X			
Pirrera			X			
Vietri			X			

NO. 2023-169

DATE July 12, 2023

Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
Approved on Consent Agenda

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act provides that the Mayor and Council may enter into Executive Session to discuss matters that are of a confidential nature, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator that the Mayor and Council enter into Executive Session to discuss matters set forth hereinafter which are permissible for discussion in Executive Session.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the governing body shall enter into Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

Legal Issues, Litigation, Potential Litigation, Contract Negotiation, Attorney-Client Privilege – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7)

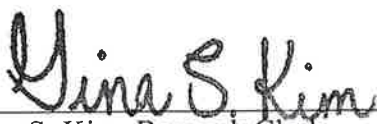
Personnel – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(8)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Executive Session shall be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, with an estimate of the circumstances and/or time for public disclosure provided in the above-listed anticipated times of decision (“ATOD”).

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

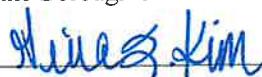
Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk



I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a meeting held on July 12, 2023.

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION  
BOROUGH OF PALISADES PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jang	X		X			
Kim			X			
Min		X	X			
Park			X			
Pirrera			X			
Vietri			X			

NO. 2023-170  
 DATE July 12, 2023  
 Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
 Approved on Consent Agenda

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING KOREAN AMERICAN NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL  
COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT CLOSING CEREMONY AT THE BOROUGH HALL**


**WHEREAS**, the Korean American Sports Council of New Jersey (“KASC”) has requested to hold a disbanding ceremony in front of Palisades Park Town Hall, on Saturday July 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM, as set forth in the letter attached hereto and incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body seeks to approve this proposed usage of Borough property.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, as follows:

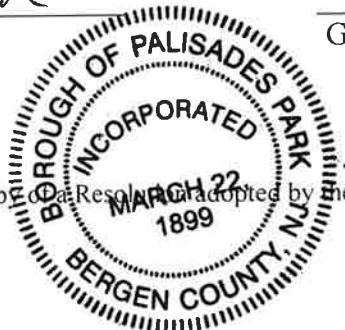
1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated as if set forth at length.
2. The governing body hereby conditionally approves the request from KASC to conduct the proposed ceremony on Borough property (including the front of Borough Hall or the court room in the event of inclement weather) and requests that the Chief of Police issue any necessary permits to allow for same.
3. The approvals contained in Paragraph 2 shall be contingent upon the Borough’s receipt of a certificate of insurance from KASC, listing the Borough of Palisades Park as an additional insured, with commercially reasonable levels of insurance coverage.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved:

  
 Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

Attest:

  
 Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk



I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a meeting held on July 12, 2023.

SEAL



**RESOLUTION  
BOROUGH OF PALISADES PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jang			X			
Kim				X		
Min	X		X			
Park		X	X			
Pirrerera				X		
Vietri				X		

NO. 2023-171  
 DATE July 12, 2023  
 Carried  Defeated  Tabled   
 Approved on Consent Agenda

\*Mayor Kim broke the tie; voted yes to adopt Resolution #2023-171.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CORRECTIVE ACTION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR  
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-136 et seq. and Palisades Park Ordinance § 48-68 et seq., the Borough of Palisades Park maintains the position of Borough Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-137 to -138 and Palisades Park Ordinance § 48-71 to -72, the Borough Administrator serves at the pleasure of the governing body unless and until removed by a two-thirds vote of the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body has identified past instruments that have been executed that purport to contain a different vote threshold for removal of the Borough Administrator other than the foregoing contained in State law and the Borough's code; and

**WHEREAS**, these issues were previously identified in a report issued by the Office of the State Comptroller; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body seeks to authorize corrective actions to address same and ensure the Borough's actions comport with State law and the Borough's code, which it acknowledges and agrees shall govern the employment of the Borough Administrator.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Palisades Park, as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated as if set forth at length.
2. The governing body hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute any instruments providing for corrective action to address and/or remedy the issues addressed under the terms of this resolution, subject to the review and approval of the Borough Attorney.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved: 

Chong Paul Kim, Mayor

Attest: 

Gina S. Kim, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Palisades Park at a meeting held on July 12, 2023.





SEAL