

Borough of Palisades Park  
275 Broad Avenue  
County of Bergen  
State of New Jersey

Work Session  
of the Mayor & Council  
June 17, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park  
Work Session of the Mayor and Council  
June 17, 2024

**Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Work Session at 5:00 P.M.**

**STATEMENT:**

This is a Work Session of the Mayor and Council, and notice was given as follows:

1. Notice was filed January 4, 2024 with the Record & Newark Star-Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://mypalisadespark.com/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Absent
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz, Esq.	Present

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE 2024-12      Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II

Councilwoman Won Yoon asked what the bond ordinance is, and asks for an explanation. Roy Riggitano explains that the grant for the ordinance was already approved in November of last year. He stated the money has now come in although it was not appropriated. We had Palisade Ave Section I ordinance set which means we did not have enough money at the time for Palisades Avenue Section II. CFO Roy explained we are appropriating roughly \$193,000 which is why our debt is \$51,000 because we are technically appropriating \$250,000 for expenditures. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked if this means whenever we get a grant, we have to expect we will go over the amount therefore the difference is what is bonded.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING;**

**ORDINANCE #2024-8 Ordinance #300-41.4 Multifamily Residential in AA Residential District/ Repeal**

Borough attorney Scott Krumholtz stated on this ordinance we are just waiting for confirmation from the planning board. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked when they can expect for it to be done. Borough Attorney Scott explained they should have an answer by next week. Mayor Kim clarified this ordinance is on a standstill right now but being expedited. Mayor Kim stated he hopes to hold a special meeting instead of waiting four weeks for another regular meeting. Councilman Min requested to get it done as soon as possible.

**ORDINANCE #2024-9 Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024**

Mayor Kim directed all questions to the Chief Financial Officer, Roy Riggitano. Councilwoman Jang asked if these salaries are for full time positions. CFO Roy replied these salaries are for both full and part time positions. He clarified that there are 3% increases on everyone's base salary and any exceptions were already brought forth to the mayor and business administrator. Councilman Min asked why the deputy borough administrator position is listed when it was abolished previously that shouldn't be the list. CFO stated there is no one in that position so they can remove it from the list but that does run the risk of hiring anyone for that position in the future because then it would be as if it does not exist. Mayor Kim explained the governing body did decide to abolish the position so it does need to be removed from the list. Councilwoman Jang questioned if anyone currently is active in the executive director of municipal industrial community role. CFO Roy Riggitano explained that no one is currently in the role but if there is someone that the council would like to hire for the role between now and December they can. CFO Roy Riggitano did give the option to abolish the position, and the councilmembers decide to speak with the borough attorney on getting rid of it. Councilwoman Jang asked for the descriptions of the vacant positions. Mayor Kim asked BA to find the descriptions and duties and he stated he will attain the info for councilmembers.

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**ORDINANCE #2024-10 Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alcoholic Beverages” to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.**

No questions arose.

**ORDINANCE 2024-11 Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled “Alarm Devices” to Modify the Application Fee to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough.**

No questions arose.

Mayor Kim made a note there will be three more agendas added to next Monday’s meeting. He explained these agendas will consist of the invoices for the police and fire lines estimated at around \$14,000. Another agenda consists of fixing the street parking lines to create more parking spaces. Lastly, Mayor Kim stated about also adding a resolution for repairing the roads.

**DISCUSSION (ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RESOLUTIONS 2024-161 THROUGH 2024-182**

- RESOLUTION 2024-161 Claims
- RESOLUTION 2024-162 Liquor License Violation #0245-44-017-007
- RESOLUTION 2024-163 Authorization of Liquor License Renewals Year of 2024 through 2025.
- RESOLUTION 2024-164 Authorization of Medicare Part B Coverage Reimbursement
- RESOLUTION 2024-165 Authorization of Salary or Compensation for Employees for 2024
- RESOLUTION 2024-166 Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season
- RESOLUTION 2024-167 Authorization of Settlement of Tax Appeal (RE: 39 E. Ruby Avenue, LLC)
- RESOLUTION 2024-168 Authorization of Tax Appeal Exposure Study
- RESOLUTION 2024-169 Authorization of Waiver of Fees for Outdoor Dining
- RESOLUTION 2024-170 Hiring of Police Record Clerk & Assistant to Police Director (Re: V. Leonelli-Spina)
- RESOLUTION 2024-171 Hiring of Part-Time Summer Internship (Re: V. Ramirez)
- RESOLUTION 2024-172 Authorization of advertisement for Roof and other Asbestos containing materials Removal (Re:12 Bellview Place)
- RESOLUTION 2024-173 Authorization of Handicapped Parking Space. (Re: 216 E. Ruby Avenue)
- RESOLUTION 2024-174 Authorization of Refund for Marriage License Fees. (# 2024-056)
- RESOLUTION 2024-175 Authorization of Advertisement Hiring of Full-Time and Part -Time Department of Public Works Laborers.
- RESOLUTION 2024-176 Authorization Adopt Procedures for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects (Re: Broad Avenue)
- RESOLUTION 2024-177 Authorization of Settlement for Code Violations (Re: 27 Fairview LLC)
- RESOLUTION 2024-178 Authorization of Borough Phone Line System Repair and Maintenance (Re: Spectrum Enterprise)
- RESOLUTION 2024-179 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 672)
- RESOLUTION 2024-180 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 673)
- RESOLUTION 2024-181 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 674)
- RESOLUTION 2024-182 Authorization of Redesign and Launch of the official Borough Website. (Re: PitaPats Inc)

**DISCUSSION;**

**Resolution 2024-165 Authorization of Salary or Compensation for Employees for 2024**

Councilwoman Won Yoon asked a question regarding some employees having multiple positions throughout the borough. She stated that CFO Roy Riggiano mentioned the typical increase per employee is 3%, but what happens if employees have multiple roles, are they still inclined to only a 3% increase. She also asked for the salary data from 2023 to compare to this year’s increases to the CFO.

**Resolution 2024-170 Hiring of Police Record Clerk & Assistant to Police Director**

Councilman Vietri asked if we had advertised for the police records clerk, and assistant to the police director on the borough website, and police website. He also asked how many interviews were conducted. BA Ray Herr responded that they did post on the websites, and there was a total of three applicants. Councilman Vietri stated he does not understand why the police director needs an assistant. Mayor Kim responded that he will have the police director come explain but as the mayor, he does agree that the police director does need an assistant. BA Ray Herr stated the police director would have been here but he had a wedding to attend and he will attend next meeting. Councilman Vietri responded he has not seen the police director at a meeting in weeks. BA and Mayor answered that the police director will attend the next meeting again.

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**Resolution 2024-172 Authorization of advertisement for Roof and other Asbestos containing materials removal (Re: 12 Bellview Place)**

Councilman Vietri thought that the borough had several clients that applied. He questioned why none of these people were ever followed up with. Mayor Kim clarified that Councilman Vietri is confusing the removal of the asbestos with the demolition. He explained that certain procedures were missed that no one at the pre-demolition meeting mentioned. He also stated before anything is built or demolished there needs to be a survey taken. Mayor Kim stated there was a survey performed and it was concluded there was asbestos found in the roof and some minimal places indoors. He explained in order to hire they need bidders, and to hire a specialist to remove the asbestos and perform an air quality test. Councilman Vietri asked how long this process has been underway. The mayor responded that the process and procedures that were supposed to be followed were not followed. Mayor Kim also explained that before the demolition of a building occurs, records should be provided including if there are any pests on the property, or any harmful chemicals and pollutants. Mayor Kim reiterated again that whoever was in charge of this project did not take the time to ask any of these questions. Councilman Vietri countered that this project has been going on for months, now that we are in July he believed the process should have been started earlier. Mayor Kim explained again the work that needs to be done on the roof at the borough is completely different than the work that needs to be done on the roof at 12 Bellview Place.

Councilwoman Won Yoon stated that at Mays meeting, Resolution 160 was the resolution for 12 Bellview Place, and now Resolution 172 is for the same address and issue. Mayor Kim asks Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang to make sure there is not a double resolution. She explained that the two projects are different from each other.

**Resolution 2024-166 Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season**

Councilwoman Won Yoon voiced her next concern regarding Resolution 2024-166 stating, last meeting she raised concerns about the nepotism issue, and asked for an explanation. Borough Attorney Scott explained they did an all-opinion letter to address the concern and it was concluded based on the law, and the circumstances that there is nothing wrong with the way it is being handled. The issue with the distribution of the employee manual and enforcing a nepotism policy is why ultimately enforcing this policy now could create a lot of issues. Councilwoman Won Yoon clarified that this means we cannot enforce the nepotism policy because we previously did not distribute, and obtain a signature from each and every employee.

**Resolution 2024-182 Authorization of Redesign and Launch of the official Borough Website. (Re: PitaPats Inc)**

Councilwoman Won Yoon stated she thinks that the redesign and launch of the new website is a good thing, although she wanted to know more information about the scope of work. She brought up that the recreation department has their own website and domain so in her opinion it needs to be merged with the borough site as part of this project. Councilwoman Won Yoon stated it is not easy to maintain the different websites. Mayor Kim responded that perhaps they did their website separately for a reason so why waste money on the maintenance fees. He explained on average the cost of the redesign is \$30,000 just to be able to upload all content to the borough website. The on-going costs associated with the changing of content is going to wind up costing nothing, and the maintenance fee will be \$120 a month. Councilwoman Won Yoon questioned why the webmaster we already have is not being used for this redesign. Mayor Kim explained that it would be more cost effective to go with a new webmaster. When there is a request to change anything, even a sentence of the website there is a fee of \$700.

Councilwoman Won Yoon asked who are we to be changing the website when the work that needs to be done is not easy work. She stated we asked for a webmaster so why are they not being used. Mayor Kim responds again that we will have a new in-house webmaster. Councilwoman Jang stated that on behalf of the recreation department, they would be happy to relinquish all rights of the current website to the new webmaster to take over and merge. Councilwoman Won Yoon stated that it does not matter if this webmaster is going to be in house or not, as long as the person is dedicated to the changes the site requires that is all that matters.

Councilman Min explained that they did look at multiple vendors because of the scope of work that needs to be done, for instance the fact that there are multiple different websites per department. They are looking into having all sites linked to one portal so it is easier for one department to handle, which would be the responsibility of the public relations coordinator who would have full access to update any changes. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked who the head of the public relations department is, in which the mayor responded "Bella". Mayor Kim goes into a bit more detail that this task would be completely out of the scope of her position. He stated after conversing with Bella, she volunteered. He does acknowledge that this is out of the scope of her responsibilities, and is willing to provide a stipend to help save money overall from having to pay third party vendors?

Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang clarifies to Councilwoman Won Yoon the difference between Resolution 160 and Resolution 172. She details that Resolution 160 approves the advertisement of the asbestos removal and remediation project. Resolution 172 is the authorization of advertisement of the roof and other asbestos containing material removal. Sophia stated even though this is the same property being advertised, these are two

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different projects. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked for clarity again. Councilman Min stated he has been looking over the two resolutions, and they are in fact two different projects. Councilwoman Won Yoon clarifies that one is for the building itself, and the other is for the roof and asbestos containing materials. Councilwoman Won Yoon added that if Sophia were to change the wording of Resolution 172, they would not be the same. Mayor Kim stated they are not the same. Sophia reads the resolutions again from the agenda to display the wording is not the same. Councilman Min re-reads Resolution 172 on the agenda. Councilwoman Won Yoon explains that the title for Resolution 160 and 172 are different on the agenda but in the actual resolutions have the same title. Sophia acknowledges, and stated she will add the word "roof" to Resolution 172.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Won Yoon announced the library board meeting took place June 6<sup>th</sup>. They found that the contract for the director of the library is ending by the end of this year. The president of the library board asked the contract committee to revise contracts for library employees so that they can be ready before the end of the year. She also announced in the junior high school section there is new carpet that was just installed. She explained when the contractors removed the old carpet, they realized that there was mold underneath. She stated they urgently need to address the mold issue. As of right now, they are planning on a way to revamp the library building. She explained they received GSE reports on the mold, and soon will be accepting bids for mold remediation. The audit is still being performed, and Councilwoman Won Yoon questioned CFO Roy Riggitano when the audit is going to be done. CFO Roy Riggitano stated approximately by the second week of July. Councilwoman Won Yoon stated she took online safety training but suggests forming a safety committee in the borough, in order to continuously train ourselves and make sure we are being safe. Mayor Kim questioned what the "safety committee" would be responsible for doing. Councilwoman Won Yoon stated there are many different levels of a safety committee that is responsible for tasks such as monitoring borough employees, cyber, and security.

Councilman Vietri stated we have a safety committee with our insurance providers. He explained further that every month there is a meeting held. He advised as a councilmember she can attend these monthly meetings and ask any questions she has. Councilman/Vietri explained as part of the fire department, once additional safety trainings are completed, they send these certifications to their insurance carriers and they get credits on their account, ultimately reducing costs of insurance. He explained that there are different safety requirements for each department, and even classes she can attend. Councilwoman Won Yoon asked what the level of enforcement is, in which Mayor Kim responded it is not about levels of enforcement, but about safety and educational preparations. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr stated we had a safety meeting last week also Councils and myself can take the online course as well.

Councilman Vietri has nothing to report.

Councilman Min reported that the vehicle placard system will be in effect starting next month. He has received around 25 to 30 applicants, and he will be starting to issue placards next week. He advised if you have not already registered, contact the police director to obtain a registration form.

Councilwoman Jang extended thanks to Mayor Kim for working with DPW Superintendent Kenny Bruno on replacing signs that are either outdated, or broken. She addressed the woman who came to the last meeting voicing her concerns on why the broken signs were not being replaced and she wanted to let her know it is being addressed and changes are being made little by little. Councilwoman Jang stated the pool roofing is done, and thanks Swimming Pool manager Karen Nascenti for working diligently on the issue. She stated so far this year the pool has accumulated \$111,000 which is \$25,000 more than last year. They are looking to have the snack bar open for 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. This upcoming Friday the pool will be opening daily. Councilwoman Jang urged people to look out for their health after the sudden heat wave today and tomorrow. Councilwoman Jang next went into detail on the 125<sup>th</sup> Palisades Park birthday celebration. She explained this celebration will take place July 7<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 8PM at the Palisades Park Swim Club. She stated the tentative rain date for the event will be for July 14<sup>th</sup>. This event is going to be heavily geared towards kids and everything is absolutely free including food, and drinks. She explained there was already a resolution passed for the ice cream truck to come by, as well as fifteen pizza pies being provided by different pizza shops in the area.

Councilwoman Lee reported this Wednesday is graduation for all three schools. She specified for the high school the graduation will be held at the football field behind ShopRite, and it will start at 7:30PM.

Councilman Min asked the mayor if it is possible to make street parking free July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Kim acknowledged that on the 4<sup>th</sup> parking is free because it is a holiday, but declines the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and stated it may create issues throughout the town because we have never done that in the past.

Mayor Kim announced that Palisades Park residents will have a front view to the fireworks taking place in Overpeck Park on our side behind ShopRite. He is currently waiting on an answer from the county to use the

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football field as a viewing area. He stated the football field is not only safe from all traffic but a safe distance away from the fireworks themselves as well. He asked Councilwoman Jang to get the recreation department on board with providing free drinks, popcorn, and cotton candy.

Borough Administrator Raymond Herr stated Bergen County has put out a heat warning for the week due to temperatures reaching the high 90's. He reminded everyone to check in on your elderly neighbors during this heat wave. BA Ray explained there will be cooling centers located at the library and at the borough inside the court room. He stated all the information uploaded at the Borough Website. Mayor Kim asked what the hours are for the cooling center and BA Ray responded 24 hours. Mayor Kim addressed if it is 24 hours then we need to make sure our doors are left open after hours to allow people to go in and out.

Mayor Kim announced the police chief and police director are both not present at tonight's meeting but they will be in for next week's meeting.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilwoman Jang makes a motion, and Councilman Min seconds. Everyone joined in favor, none opposed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Samiah Moore spoke about the issue with being able to find parking. She stated she is disabled and currently waiting for her disability to go through explaining she could barely pay her rent. A member of her family gave her a car to borrow so it is not registered to her address here in Palisades Park. She explained she is getting \$40 parking tickets every day and she was not going to be able to pay them. She stated she has to go to various doctors' appointments regularly and needs this car to get around. She stated her husband is currently deployed in South Korea with the Military and could not pay these tickets either due to his recent surgery he had on his back. She asked Mayor Kim how he expects people to pay seven dollars a day to park their cars on the street they live on. Mayor Kim was sympathetic with her but the car she is currently driving is borrowed and does not belong to her. He asked if she can provide proof of her disability. Samiah stated she has papers from the doctor stating she cannot work, as well as papers from the state fighting her disability. She then stated each day she has to take Oxy three times throughout the day. Mayor Kim responded she should not drive when on this medication. She responded that she does not drive when on the medication but if she has to go to a doctor's appointment, she could not be constantly asking people for help. Mayor Kim asked the borough administrator to consult with the police chief if it is possible for an exception to be made. He explained that the issue is that once they hear one story, they are going to be hearing stories from everyone who will come forth and say they want an exception too. He explained further that if she can prove through medical records and written permission from the owner then they can start to consider the exception. She stated her niece is the one that loaned her the car, and the tickets she has now she cannot pay – she could barely pay to eat. Samiah asked Mayor Kim to consider the number of tickets being charged \$40 a day every day except weekends. Mayor Kim asked her to not give trouble or a negative connotation to the public workers who are just doing their jobs. Samiah responded she is not mad at the workers but what happens if someone has to rent a car for three months. She reiterated her question, how could you make someone pay \$7 a day? Mayor Kim stated if you rented a car for three months you would have the ownership of the car for that time period along with documentation which she currently does not possess. Samiah asked in her case what should she do. Mayor Kim advised her that the borough administrator will speak to the police chief about her special circumstance, but until they decide the rules on parking will still apply. She will continue to get ticketed for nonresident parking. He suggested maybe asking a neighbor if for the time being she can leave her car in their driveway to avoid tickets. Samiah cuts off the mayor asking who is the person allowing the building of four family homes in an area designated for a two family home. She asked where are all these new families going to park when people are already taking street parking who own their own driveway. She asked again if she going to still continue getting ticketed. Mayor Kim advised her to come next week to the meeting and if the police chief does allow her special circumstances then she should provide documentation, but not before the chief's approval. Mayor Kim asked her to provide her contact details before she leaves.

Hye Park stepped up but needs a translator to translate her Korean to English. Mayor Kim asked James to step up who has prior experience as an interpreter. She stated that she moved to Palisades Park in the summer of 2022. One day PSE&G came and did work on the road on her street. The company opened the public road but only paved half. She explained with heavy rains and steep hills there is not an adequate sewage system to take all the water away. On top of that, PSE&G did not cover their construction leading to issues with water damage. She explained Councilman Min came to the site and tried to find solutions. There were suspicions about illegal construction of a water pump but later found out there was not anything done about it. She stated former borough administrator, David Lorenzo promised her that it is a water problem, and that she is a victim who needs a solution. Mayor Kim stated whatever transpired between Hye and the prior BA does not have anything to do with him because he was not present at that time. Mayor Kim acknowledged that he does remember that some public company repaired the road and raised a pitch, which means a flood will happen easier on her curb line. Councilman Min stated originally, they were inspecting the sub pump pumping out the water but shortly realized it was not pumping any water. PSE&G did work on the grounds and did repave but somehow it was repaved too high, so the water collecting by the curb is getting sucked into the driveway. Mayor Kim asked if he

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sees a remedy for the issue. Councilman Min responded he spoke to DPW and if there is a future job with PSE&G, or the water company, the borough can request for the road to be repaved after their work is complete. As of right now, there is not anything up on the schedule for future jobs. Councilman Min suggested if we take matters into our own hands and fixed it ourselves, we would have to build a higher pitch where the patching is by the curb. Councilman Min explained by Ms. Park driveway it is very uneven. Mayor Kim asked what DPW has said about this issue. Councilman Min responded they have to either wait for future work to be done, or they can deem this a special circumstance giving them the authority to decide if they want to do the work on their own. Mayor Kim asked if this issue is specifically related to her curb, or if other neighbors are affected by this too. Councilman Min reiterated when the work was originally done by PSE&G, they were supposed to patch the whole street but did not, and left a part that was not patched. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Jang to get DPW to stop by and see if there is an inexpensive remedy. Councilman Min explained normally when paving, it is distributed in a dome shape and then spread out to the corners and edges. Mayor Kim asked if there is a drain located in her driveway. Councilman Min responded there is but when there is torrential rain there's too much water to get rid of. James, who has been interpreting, stated that he has been translating to Ms. Park in pieces while the council was discussing. She wanted to tell the council some nights when it rains really bad, she is scared to fall asleep in fear there will be flooding in her home. Mayor Kim stated that Councilwoman Jang will get the DPW to stop by and come up with an inexpensive remedy, and to please let him know when this is complete. Mayor Kim said to Ms. Park that he will have an answer by next Monday.

Susan Brauer asked what is the situation with the American flags not being displayed on the avenue. She asked where are the flags, and why were they taken down. Mayor Kim said DPW must have taken them down. Susan responded she called the DPW and they have no idea why the flags were removed. Mayor Kim responded whoever she called either is not DPW or they lied because they are the only ones who handle the flags in town. Susan stated she does not want to give any names out because she does not want to get anyone in trouble for giving false information. She stated we are celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July but they can "stick it" because there is no point if the flags are not displayed. She said to the mayor the town has been good to him, and America has been good to him. She stated again we need American flags up throughout the town. If they are not put-up Susan stated, she is in contact with different organizations that want to know about it. Her next issue was concerning the seven months antisemitism policy she has been voicing. She comments "you must be dumb, deaf, or blind to not know what im talking about". Mayor Kim told her not to insult the council or himself, making any statements insinuating they are dumb, deaf, or blind. He then asked Susan if she is any of those things. She brought up Roberts Rule of Order and stated by law the mayor has to interact and hold himself a certain way. Mayor Kim replied that she is the one who asked the council if they were dumb, deaf, or blind, and told them they can stick it. She replied they can stick it wherever they want to, if they do not want to put up the flags just say they do not want to put up the flags. She stated there is an understanding here that all council members and mayor should be embarrassed about. She goes on to explain that people are being killed on both sides, and she says the mayor is just adding to a terrorist problem by not doing anything. Mayor Kim is appalled. He said "Excuse me? Now we are adding to a terrorist problem?" He advised Susan she has 30 more seconds left on her time. She used her last 30 seconds to ask what is going on with the police trailers by ShopRite, also what is it costing the town by them just sitting there. Mayor Kim said it is under investigation. Susan replied that is the same answer she has been getting for the past four months. She asked if this is usually how long his investigations take. Susan then stated we seem to be able to spend money quicker. She said if he is being threatened by someone not to do something then that is a different story. Susan said she emailed Mayor Kim twice about the flags, and tells him he should not tell anyone to email him with problems if he does not even check his email.

Mayor Kim responded he firmly believes the DPW did not say they have no idea about the flags. He asks who else could have installed the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday banners, and took down the previous flags. Mayor Kim said he will ask DPW. Councilwoman Jang said she heard that at Bergen County they are hosting an event to respectfully dispose of any torn flags. Mayor Kim agreed that yes, there is a special way to dispose of American flags. Someone from the crowd shouts out, so where are they?

Robin Tack asked if they can make a note that June 14<sup>th</sup> was flag day and it is interesting that the flags came down before then. Robin stated the Bergen Record would like to know more. Robin asked Councilwoman Jang if she can email her because they want to know who is responsible for removing them. Mayor Kim reminded Councilwoman Jang to not interact with the public when they are in the middle of their three minutes. Robin asked again who can she contact, but no answer was given. She moves on to ask about the antisemitism policy, and Borough Attorney Scott explained it was brought to the governing body and they are waiting on an answer. Susan stated it did not take this long when it was regarding anti-Korean. Mayor Kim corrected her, that it was not anti-Korean, but anti-Asian. She moved on to ask who is responsible for changing the information on the electronic signs. Robin stated the facilities manager got upset when asked if he changed it, stating it was not his job to do so. Mayor Kim replied it is not his job, but it is the PR coordinator who is in charge of the sign. Robin asked for the contact information for the PR coordinator. Mayor Kim advised her she can come do exactly what she is doing now and stated her concerns at a meeting. Mayor Kim wanted councilmembers to know the American flag must be down for a reason considering it is up every single year, and he will find out why.

Martha Schore suggested to Mayor Kim, he should have a little more respect when speaking to people. He replied he is not the one telling people to "shut it" and "stick it somewhere". He reiterated that he is not the one

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calling people stupid or ignorant. He told Martha to respect herself first before asking for respect. Martha replied she is being polite to him. Martha stated that any town in any state always has the American flag on land posts. She said everyone in the room whether they like it or not is an American. She further explained they came to this country because they were not happy with the things going on in their own countries. Councilman Min went to respond and she told him to shut up all together. Mayor Kim addressed her as "maam" and asks her to refrain from telling the council to shut up. She told the mayor to address her by her first name. Mayor Kim told her to please just ask her questions. Martha pointed to Councilman Min and said he is either a mini mayor or he is not, because he seems to assume he can speak on behalf of the mayor. She stated he ordered parking stickers even though the town had not approved it at the time. Mayor Kim asked her what is wrong with him asking Councilman Min to help him? She stated Councilman Min hired two accountants to check the town when no one gave him permission to do so. Mayor Kim stated he is confused because she seems to be jumping topics. She replied simply Councilman Min does things without permission. Mayor Kim clarified that the council is responsible for hiring the accountants, and one individual cannot hire on behalf of the town. She stated it was before it went to vote these people were hired. She told him to know his facts and respect his elders.

Mayor Kim stated he does not like how she assumes people took a boat, or a plane to come to the America because life was horrible where they originated from. He told her some were born here just like you, and it is not fair to assume someone came to America because their life was horrible elsewhere. Susan stated it was not harsh, but people came to America for a reason, including the mayor's family, as well as her own. Mayor Kim asked Susan what this has to do with her original concern regarding the flags. He explained he can figure out why they were taken down but he does not want it to go into immigration, and the reason why people come to America. She asked why he is making it a big thing that the flags can't be put up on the avenue. Mayor Kim responded he never said they cannot have the American flags up, but they need to find the reason behind why they were taken down in the first place from DPW. She asked about the meantime. Her three minutes is up.

Tali Moralis asked what the right avenue is to communicate directly with the mayor. She acknowledged the route that some have gone when asking questions maybe was not the best. Mayor Kim asked what she is referring to, is it the antisemitism policy. She said that is definitely an area of concern but she wants a discussion on what is happening. People have been asking meeting after meeting and it is not being addressed. She stated the mayor told them to come with numbers, and they did. Then the mayor remembered he told them to come with petitions. She stated she does not remember anything last meeting pertaining to petitions, but she did remember the mayor telling them to come with numbers, a group of people, and speak and participate at the council meetings. Mayor Kim explained the way they get their voice heard is by petitioning and getting signatures from residents therefore she must petition. Even though petitions were not mentioned at the last meeting, Tali stated that she already came with signatures. Mayor Kim asked where they are because he has never seen them. She responded the mayor told her to email these to him but he did not check or answer his emails. She explained they spoke things over with the previous clerk so maybe that is where the communication became muffled because they were primarily dealing with her. Ms. Tali reiterated to Mayor Kim a group stood outside the court previously and they were told to come to the meetings with a number of people to speak, which they did. Mayor Kim agreed that you brought three people to speak today. She stated other people do have jobs and families and cannot make it to the meetings. Mayor Kim questioned how many petitions Tali received. She stated they were not ever told to do petitions and that there is a video of the mayor stating everything they needed to do which did not include petitioning. She stated they have been trying to get in contact with the right people and go about the right steps but they keep getting the run around. Mayor Kim stated the governing body knows of her concerns and he spoke with the borough attorney and they are still trying to figure out something to do. They need to discuss further; Borough Attorney Allan Roth will be in next week and Mayor Kim will have him explain.

Ronnie Mohammed stated that she was apart of the group of people that had come forth to speak as Tali was explaining. She said Mayor Kim had told her directly she did not have to worry about petitions just yet and that she should just keep coming to speak at meetings. She said if he does disagree, she can provide video evidence. Ms. Ronnie step up to address the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel. She states as a town we should be doing our moral duty in addressing the violence being funded by our U.S. tax dollars. She asked to reflect on how this is affecting everyone around the world. She expressed passing a cease fire resolution should not be such a daunting task, but it shows our commitment to ending the cycle of violence and advocate for innocent lives. She asked for Palisades Park to come together to show they will not stand for any form of genocide, or injustice. She stated that Mayor Kim's priorities are to prioritize interest of this community, not prioritize political gain over human lives. She stated if he does not take a stand, he will be held accountable at the ballot box. Ronnie asks for councilmembers to envision parents mourning children, those caught in the cross fire, and families displaced due to war. She demanded a ceasefire resolution and says future generations will judge us by our actions, not by our words. She asked what do they do in order to get this to happen. Ms. Ronnie, along with multiple members of the community have emailed everyone on the council a copy of the ceasefire resolution. She said none have received a response. Mayor Kim explained all emails pertaining to this are in a catch getting filtered and sent over to the borough attorney who will be in next Monday to explain further. The mayor addressed her comment relating to keeping the best interest of the town. She asked Mayor Kim if he thinks there is a rise on antisemitism, and islamophobia. Mayor Kim said it is important but she is saying because they have not provided an answer yet, they do not care about the interest of the community and he does not agree with it.



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He stated whether there is a war going on or not, they still have a responsibility as a town. She asked if Mayor Kim believes there is not any Palestinian or Israeli people in the community. He stated he is not saying that he thinks that but he is addressing her comment about the best interest of the town. Mayor Kim said the best interest of our town is not specifically for Palestinians, Israelis, or Ukrainians but the best interest is for our town residents. Ms. Ronnie agreed and said the residents of this town are asking for a cease fire resolution so where is it. Mayor Kim advised her to go door to door and work on that first. There are 22,000 people in town and 7,000 to 8,000 people registered to vote. He told her to see how many signatures she could bring in, not just two people speaking at a meeting saying you represent the town.

Neris Papoters stated that the cars parked on Glen Avenue during the night leaving reminiscences of garbage. She asked if the police can patrol around the area during the night. Next, she asked about if there is a policy enforcing how residents have to cut their grass. She stated there are some vacant properties that have begun to accumulate not only very tall grass, but garbage as well. Mayor Kim told them they have every right to call and report the properties to code enforcement. He explained in the spring they issued warnings, and now they will be distributing tickets. Mayor Kim asked Borough Administrator Raymond Herr to notify code enforcement. BA Raymond stated he will also notify the police director. Mayor Kim told Ms. Neris they will have to get back to her.

Eric Spieley brought up that there are many blocks where there are properties not being maintained properly referring to the grass. He stated someone is being paid to monitor this but no one is actually doing it. Mayor Kim asked if anyone has called code enforcement, in which they reply "no". Mayor Kim tells them he will get them the number, but they do have the right to contact him to let him know about the grass growth. Mayor Kim said if he does not act then to let him know. Eric asked if the only thing to get the ball moving on this, is for someone to complain. Mayor Kim said no, but there is one code enforcer who is supposed to go up and down the streets in a uniformed way to ensure all properties are overseen.

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to close the public session. Councilman Min makes a motion, and Councilwoman Jang seconds his motion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Kim requests a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Min makes a motion to adjourn, which is seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Deputy Borough Clerk

Borough of Palisades Park  
275 Broad Avenue  
County of Bergen  
State of New Jersey

Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
June 24, 2024

**Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the meeting.**

**STATEMENT:**

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

1. Notice was filed January 4, 2024 with the Record & Newark Star-Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall and the Borough website at <https://mypalisadespark.com/>
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Kim	Present
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Administrator Raymond Herr	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz, Esq.	Present

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE 2024-12      Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING;**

ORDINANCE 2024-8      Ordinance #300-41.4 Multifamily Residential in AA Residential District/ Repeal  
ORDINANCE 2024-9      Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024.  
ORDINANCE 2024-10    Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.  
ORDINANCE 2024-11    Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alarm Devices" to Modify the Application Fee to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough.

**DISCUSSION (ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA)**

RESOLUTION 2024-161    Claims  
RESOLUTION 2024-162    Liquor License Violation #0245-44-017-007  
RESOLUTION 2024-163    Authorization of Liquor License Renewals Year of 2024 through 2025.  
RESOLUTION 2024-164    Authorization of Medicare Part B Coverage Reimbursement  
RESOLUTION 2024-165    Authorization of Salary or Compensation for Employees for 2024  
RESOLUTION 2024-166    Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season  
RESOLUTION 2024-167    Authorization of Settlement of Tax Appeal (RE: 39 E. Ruby Avenue, LLC)  
RESOLUTION 2024-168    Authorization of Tax Appeal Exposure Study  
RESOLUTION 2024-169    Authorization of Waiver of Fees for Outdoor Dining  
RESOLUTION 2024-170    Hiring of Police Record Clerk & Assistant to Police Director (Re: V. Leonelli-Spina)  
RESOLUTION 2024-171    Hiring of Part-Time Summer Internship (Re: V. Ramirez)  
RESOLUTION 2024-172    Authorization of advertisement for Roof and other Asbestos containing materials removal (Re: 12 Bellview Place)  
RESOLUTION 2024-173    Authorization of Handicapped Parking Space. (Re: 216 E. Ruby Avenue)  
RESOLUTION 2024-174    Authorization of Refund for Marriage License Fees. (# 2024-056)  
RESOLUTION 2024-175    Authorization of Advertisement Hiring of Full-Time and Part -Time Department of Public Works Laborers.  
RESOLUTION 2024-176    Authorization Adopt Procedures for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects (Re: Broad Avenue)  
RESOLUTION 2024-177    Authorization of Settlement for Code Violations (Re: 27 Fairview LLC)  
RESOLUTION 2024-178    Authorization of Borough Phone Line System Repair and Maintenance (Re: Spectrum Enterprise) -TABLED

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- RESOLUTION 2024-179 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 672)  
RESOLUTION 2024-180 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 673)  
RESOLUTION 2024-181 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 674)  
RESOLUTION 2024-182 Authorization of Redesign and Launch of the official Borough Website.  
(Re: PitaPats Inc)  
RESOLUTION 2024-183 Authorization of Hire Department of Public Work Summer Seasonal Employee  
(Re: J. Quiroa)  
RESOLUTION 2024-184 Authorization of Hire Department of Public Work Summer Seasonal Employee  
(Re: M. Baten)  
RESOLUTION 2024-185 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: E. Simon Jr.)  
RESOLUTION 2024-186 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: B. Garcia)  
RESOLUTION 2024-187 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: E. Alonzo)  
RESOLUTION 2024-188 Award Contract for Swimming Pool Snack Bar Renovation and Operation. (Re: S&I  
Corporation)  
RESOLUTION 2024-189 Authorization of Payment of Police and Fire Phone Lines System. (Re: Professional  
Services Group)  
RESOLUTION 2024-190 Authorization of Extending Term of Interim Borough Administrator (Re: R. Hurr)  
RESOLUTION 2024-191 Hiring of Volunteer Summer Internship (Re: E. Duong)

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE 2024-12 Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Improvement of Palisades Boulevard Phase II

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING/PUBLIC HEARING;**

ORDINANCE 2024-8 Ordinance #300-41.4 Multifamily Residential in AA Residential District/ Repeal  
Mayor Kim stated the mayor and council would like to table this ordinance. Mayor Kim explained that  
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained the planning board had to meet with the borough planner,  
special attorney, and the planning board attorney to get a consensus by the planning board in order to  
approve before we approve it tonight's meeting. Mayor Kim stated this ordinance will still be stuck in the  
first reading.

Councilman Min made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-8, which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang.  
The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Ordinance 2024-8 had been tabled.

ORDINANCE 2024-9 Establishment of Salaries for Year 2024.

Mayor Kim called CFO Roy Riggitano to answer any questions council members had. Councilwoman  
Won-Yoon asked about the salary ranges for the employees of the library. Councilwoman Won-Yoon  
asked if these numbers were actually coming from the library. CFO Roy Riggitano stated they came  
directly from the library. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if we have to have a public hearing before we  
vote. Mayor Kim replied yes, we do. Mayor Kim requested a motion to open to the public.

Councilwoman Jang made a motion to open to the public, which was seconded by Councilman Min.  
Everyone joined in favor, none opposed.

Public Participation for ORDINANCE 2024-9

Susan Brauer asked if these were just ranges and not a set salary. Mayor Kim acknowledged it was just a  
range. Susan Brauer stated she just wanted to make sure, and returned to her seat.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, and  
Councilwoman Won-Yoon seconded. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass ordinance 2024-9. Councilman Min made a motion, and  
Councilwoman Lee seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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Councilwoman Jang: Yes  
Councilman Kim: Yes  
Councilwoman Lee: Yes  
Councilman Min: Yes  
Councilman Vietri: Yes  
Councilwoman Won Yoon: Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Ordinance 2024-9 had been passed.

A copy of the Ordinance will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Borough Hall and will be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ORDINANCE 2024-10 Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" to Modify the Permissible Hours for Sales, Delivery and Acceptable Forms of Identification, and Maximum Fines for Violations within the Borough.

Mayor Kim asked if any council members had any questions.

Councilman Vietri asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz if this ordinance also applied to taverns. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz replied, it does. Councilman Vietri asked if he goes into a tavern at 10PM to consume a six pack, would he be able to do that? Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz explained he would have to consume on premise. Off premise consumption sales are limited and must close by 10PM. Councilman Vietri stated years ago the state had the same ordinance put in place, stopping liquor sales at 10PM. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz asked if there was a legal question pertaining to his statement. Councilman Vietri replied that he was asking that as well. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz explained he had reviewed the ordinance, and provided his opinion that the ordinance complied with all the laws in the state. Councilman Vietri asked if he goes to a tavern and alcohol is sold in a cardboard, or plastic container could it still be consumed. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz clarified further that the alcohol could not leave the premises.

Mayor Kim called for Police Director Michael Gardner to clarify any questions. Police Director Gardner explained no alcohol sales could not be completed after 10PM for off premise consumption.

Councilman Vietri asked if anyone had spoken to the tavern owners because he believed they were going to have a lot of complaints arise. Mayor Kim stated they already had this conversation at prior meetings, and it was brought up that the Chamber of Commerce should be involved. Mayor Kim also mentions that Councilwoman Lee was prioritizing the best interest of the residents, and the town resulting in a reduction of car accidents, and intoxicated people on the streets. Councilwoman Lee stated she spoke to the president of the Chamber of Commerce. She also stated that considering they had been put on notice if they have any questions or concerns, they were free to attend tonight's meeting, and share these opinions.

Councilwoman Lee distinguished the difference between on and off premise consumption.

Councilwoman Lee explained off premise consumption is when you purchase alcohol and drink wherever you want. On premise consumption is when the business owners are responsible for the reasonable care of the people in their premises. Councilman Vietri asked if the president of the Chamber of Commerce is a tavern owner. Councilwoman Lee questioned why that was relevant. Councilwoman Lee further explained that the president of the Chamber of Commerce did not only represent the tavern owners but all business owners. Councilman Vietri asked if anyone had explained this to the tavern owners because they have a right to know. Councilman Vietri stated a person who owned a tavern would understand it more, and how it was going to affect their livelihood. Councilwoman Lee responded as a business owner in Palisades Park it is the responsibility of those business owners to participate in activities and be part of the community if they wanted notice about what was going on in the community. He stated he saw more lawsuits coming from the passage of this ordinance.

Mayor Kim asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz in front of everyone again if these rules and regulations were in compliance. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz stated yes, they did comply with state statutes. Councilwoman Lee stated Councilman Vietri was on notice for two months so he could have told tavern owners to come tonight to share their opinions. Councilman Vietri stated Councilwoman Lee was presenting this, not him. Mayor Kim stated the fastest way to get an opinion on the topic would be to go through the Chamber of Commerce especially because the mayor and council were already on the second reading of the ordinance. Mayor Kim stated speaking individually with the tavern owners was an additional request.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Marsha Schor asked if this meant bars had to close at 10PM. Councilwoman Lee stated bars sold for on premise consumption so it would not be subjected to the 10PM rule, but subjected to a closing time of

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2AM. Marsha said the town had an ordinance in place already closing bars from 3AM to 6AM. She asked if someone were to get off of the bus from working late, and wanted to buy a six pack they couldn't? Mayor Kim replied these hours were enforced in many other towns with only a reduction of one hour in our town, to prevent intoxicated people from roaming around outside. He goes on, there was reason to believe that people come to our town to drink for that extra hour that we remained open. Councilwoman Lee stated they are not saying this was a consequence but there are more benefits to having it this way. Marsha asked what would happen if someone were to go drink at a bar, leave to go out for a bit, then return to the bar. Councilwoman Lee clarified that would be fine, because it was on premise consumption. Mayor Kim stated if someone was visibly drunk requesting more alcohol, the business owners had a responsibility to not serve that individual any more alcohol which was a main reason we had resolutions for reprimanding. Marsha Schor asked even though it was recommended, do bars still have to adhere to it? Councilwoman Lee answered with an absolutely, yes. Marsha then stated in other words, people could purchase all they wanted during the day. Mayor Kim replied there seemed to be confusion; people do not walk into a tavern nowadays to buy a six pack in a box. Marsha asked, was it not safer for someone to buy a six pack and drink in their own home? Councilwoman Lee responded that the problem the mayor and council were addressing was people going into the liquor stores and drinking on the street, or in their cars causing problems throughout the town. Councilwoman Lee clarified this did not address people just trying to drink in their homes. Marsha asked if someone came home late, did that mean they could not purchase alcohol. Mayor Kim asked how often that occurrence really happened. Marsha responded that he would have been surprised. Mayor Kim said he understood her point of view. Marsha stated in other words, on holidays would that rule still be in effect. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz explained there was an exception for Sundays, and holidays. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz named a few such as New Years Day, New Years Eve, and Christmas Eve.

Neris Papoters was excited to see this in place, and she is at ease knowing there is a plan to combat the issue. Neris stated if individuals wanted to drink after 10PM, they must purchase in advance and drink at home, it would not prevent anyone from having events or parties at their homes involving alcohol. Neris also voiced how happy she was that residents would not have to be in charge of picking up leftover bottles, and cans, and having to send people to the emergency room.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Everyone joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-10. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	No
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Ordinance 2024-10 had been passed.

**ORDINANCE 2024-11** Further Amendment of Chapter 84 Entitled "Alarm Devices" to Modify the Application F to Each Owner of an Alarm System Within the Borough.

No questions arose. Mayor Kim requested a motion to close and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion, and Councilwoman Jang seconded. Everyone joined in favor, none opposed.

After no questions arose from the public, Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, and Councilwoman Won-Yoon seconded. Everyone joined in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to pass ordinance 2024-10. Councilman Min made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Ordinance 2024-10 had been passed.

**DISCUSSION (ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA)**

RESOLUTION 2024-161 Claims

RESOLUTION 2024-162 Liquor License Violation #0245-44-017-007

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz stated there is a hearing scheduled for tonight for liquor license violations. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said that earlier today he sent an email to the clerk and council members to create a resolution on the matter. Mayor Kim asked Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz to summarize the recommendation. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz said the recommendation was to accept a guilty plea from the liquor license holder pending submission to the ABC. He further explained there was a financial penalty as opposed to a suspension of their license for a maximum of 15 days. Mayor Kim asked what was the reason for not implementing suspension dates. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained this was a physical observation instead of a paper violation. The license holder was charged with serving an intoxicated person. The proof level and cost to the borough to have a hearing for this violation would be expensive and time consuming. Typically, license holders facing their first and second violations were offered an accommodation so the license holder did not face economic difficulty and the borough received compensation. Mayor Kim asked Scott Krumholz if the council were following procedures, while allowing ABC to handle their portion. Scott Krumholz responded that they were following all procedures, while ABC decided on the monetary amount. Scott explained he spoke with the prosecutor and they both came to the same conclusion.

Mayor Kim asked if council members had any questions.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if the reason this was proposed as a resolution was because of a settlement. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz replied no, typically there would be a hearing. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said they violated the rules, there was a hearing, and now a resolution, but what was being approved? She asked if it was not normal protocol when liquor license holders violated to have police take a report and then it was brought to the prosecutor's office and then decided on. She asked for clarity on why this was coming to the governing body as a resolution. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz explained ABC liquor license violations would be presented before the mayor and council, so the hearing would be held here instead of a municipal court process. Also, he stated this could be solved upfront, and believed this was more economically feasible, and amicable. Mayor Kim clarifies because it was their first strike, they did not get suspension of sales.

Councilwoman Jang asked if resolution 2024-162 was completed. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz replied no, he needed to know from the mayor and council whether or not there was an agreement to approve the settlement or not. Councilwoman Jang stated she wanted to make a motion to accept the settlement. Mayor Kim responded to wait and put it all together at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any other questions.

RESOLUTION 2024-163 Authorization of Liquor License Renewals Year of 2024 through 2025.

RESOLUTION 2024-164 Authorization of Medicare Part B Coverage Reimbursement

RESOLUTION 2024-165 Authorization of Salary or Compensation for Employees for 2024

Councilwoman Jang questioned Resolution 2024-165. Mayor Kim called up Roy Riggitano to answer her questions.

Councilwoman Jang said she found out the salaries for the library employees, and the library director had an increase in salary of 11.11%. She explained last year the salary was \$92,700, and this year it had gone up to \$103,000. Councilwoman Jang also pointed out that library employee #6 was paid last year \$29,493 but this year there was an increase to \$34,000 which was about 15-28% increase. Councilwoman Jang stated when Councilwoman Won-Yoon had asked previously how the salaries work, the answer provided was that they were still executing these salaries since January 1st. CFO Roy Riggitano stated there was an exception to the changes to amounts such as the director's salary which was a separate contract coming straight from the library board and their attorney. CFO Roy Riggitano further explained at these meetings they disclosed the salaries to the public but they did not have any input in the said of what these salaries exactly were. Mayor Kim said they would have to follow the rules. Councilwoman Jang used the school board as an example. She stated that if there was a 3% increase for employees then that 3% increase applied to everyone, no matter the position. She then asked if the library director was new. CFO Roy Riggitano replied they were not new; it was their 3rd or 4th year of the contract. Councilwoman Jang said when they had a special contract allowing an annual increase of 11% it should be disclosed. Roy Riggitano stated it was because the contract was based off each individual. Most of the time workers were following the white-collar contract with the exception of the director. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said the library director contract was 3% but last December the board decided to increase it to 11%. Councilwoman Won-Yoon explained the CFO was only following what the board had already decided on. She stated the library salaries were effective January 1st, while the borough

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employee salaries were effective after voting at a meeting. She asked if this is something the mayor and council and library board could align. Roy stated we could.

Mayor Kim stated that Councilwoman Won-Yoon and Councilwoman Jang noticed all the library contracts end at the same time. He asked if it was possible to ask them to create new contracts that aligned with our schedule. Roy Riggitano said that it was up to the library board, not the mayor and council. Councilwoman Won-Yoon said we could request, and she would speak with them about potentially having newer contracts become effective at the same time as the boroughs. Councilwoman Won-Yoon later at the July 22, 2024, Mayor and Council Meeting, clarified that she meant to say she would like to have the pay raises for the library to have an effective date synchronized with the borough pay raises.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions for Roy since he would be leaving the meeting soon. Mayor Kim asked again if everyone was okay with resolution 165 and if there were any more questions regarding the range.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked why there was no base salary for the borough clerk position. She stated even though the position was vacant at the time, why were they still seeing it as part of the salary. Mayor Kim said on the list they forgot to put in a spot for the borough clerk position. He further explained the position was never abolished, therefore he asked Roy to make an amendment to add the base salary for the borough clerk position. Maria Elefteriou from Finance Department explained the borough clerk salary was in the ranges for the salary ordinance but we did not currently have a borough clerk that was why it was not in the salary list and when we did hire a borough clerk it could be amended. Councilman Min said the base salary was not seen in the ordinance but that the ranges could still be seen, therefore it was still in the budget so it would not be a problem in the future to hire for the position. Roy stated that was the reason they included the range for the position in this meeting.

Mayor Kim asked if anyone had any further finance questions.

- RESOLUTION 2024-166 Hiring of Pool Employees for the 2024 Pool Season
- RESOLUTION 2024-167 Authorization of Settlement of Tax Appeal (RE: 39 E. Ruby Avenue, LLC)
- RESOLUTION 2024-168 Authorization of Tax Appeal Exposure Study
- RESOLUTION 2024-169 Authorization of Waiver of Fees for Outdoor Dining
- RESOLUTION 2024-170 Hiring of Police Record Clerk & Assistant to Police Director (Re: V. Leonelli-Spina)

Councilman Vietri asked about resolution 2024-170. He stated he would like to find out in writing what the responsibilities and rules and regulations are of the police director. Councilman Vietri then stated he did not understand the position for the assistant to the police director when there were no rules or regulations they had to follow. Councilman Vietri also stated he did not understand the hiring of the police clerk starting at \$42,000. Mayor Kim responded that his first question had no relevance to resolution 2024-170, however the director was there to explain the duties and rules. Mayor Kim addressed his question regarding resolution 2024-170, and asked Borough Administrator Raymond Herr to explain the reason for a police clerk and also police director. BA Raymond Herr stated that he believed this person should be hired because it was needed. He explained the workload of the police director would be expanding and he needed an assistant to help on a part time basis with a majority of the work being a police clerk.

Mayor Kim called Police Michael Director Gardner up to explain why he needed a secretary. Police Director Gardner said he had a bunch of tasks he had set aside for the assistant, one of them being to get the department accredited, with this individual spearheading the accreditation. He stated he spoke with the insurance carriers who were willing to front the money for the accreditation. Once the department is accredited, they would have the insurance savings to pay them back so there would not be any out-of-pocket costs to the borough. He explained second, this person would do research to know the contract for the collective bargaining agreement. They would research terms and agreements in the contract that the department may want to change or purpose in the collective bargaining agreement for the end of the year. Considering the police director was a part time position these tasks would most likely go to the records clerk. Councilman Vietri asked if the clerk had police experience. Police Director Michael Gardner said the clerk had police experience researching chief contracts. Councilman Vietri asked again if they were ever a police officer. Police Director Michael Gardner responded no, you did not need to be a police officer to investigate police contracts, adding he did it himself for 30 years.

Councilman Vietri asked next for his rules and regulations that he must follow. Mayor Kim said that it is a secondary question and does not involve resolution 170 but he asked Gardner to outline what they were. Police Director Gardner said if Councilman Vietri looked at the ordinance and borough code it outlined the rules and responsibilities of the police director.

Mayor Kim asked if there are any more questions about any resolution.



Borough of Palisades Park  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
June 24, 2024

- RESOLUTION 2024-171 Hiring of Part-Time Summer Internship (Re: V. Ramirez)  
RESOLUTION 2024-172 Authorization of advertisement for Roof and other Asbestos containing materials removal (Re:12 Bellview Place)  
RESOLUTION 2024-173 Authorization of Handicapped Parking Space. (Re: 216 E. Ruby Avenue)  
RESOLUTION 2024-174 Authorization of Refund for Marriage License Fees. (# 2024-056)  
RESOLUTION 2024-175 Authorization of Advertisement Hiring of Full-Time and Part -Time Department of Public Works Laborers.  
RESOLUTION 2024-176 Authorization Adopt Procedures for Administration and Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects (Re: Broad Avenue)  
RESOLUTION 2024-177 Authorization of Settlement for Code Violations (Re: 27 Fairview LLC)  
RESOLUTION 2024-178 Authorization of Borough Phone Line System Repair and Maintenance (Re: Spectrum Enterprise) -TABLED

Mayor Kim asked for a motion to table Resolution 2024-178 because they were still in the process of figuring things out. Mayor Kim explained they finally had found out who installed the old wiring systems, so they are waiting to meet with the service provider to find out if the provider could fix it and also get the details on the agreement. Mayor Kim stated they are inclined to install new equipment and there are a lot of questions that the governing body would like to ask.

Councilman Min made a motion to table Resolution 2024-178. Councilwoman Jang seconded this motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Resolution 178 had been tabled.

- RESOLUTION 2024-179 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 672)  
RESOLUTION 2024-180 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 673)  
RESOLUTION 2024-181 Authorization of Raffle License (Re: Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks, RL # 674)  
RESOLUTION 2024-182 Authorization of Redesign and Launch of the official Borough Website.  
(Re: PitaPats Inc)

Councilman Vietri raised a question regarding resolution 2024-182. He asked if for all the work done it would cost \$12,000.

Mayor Kim acknowledged the amount stating it would wind up saving the town a lot of money in the long run. Mayor Kim also explained working with this new vendor would give them more control to streamline and have more efficiency. Mayor Kim further explained it would give us control of our own website to be able to upload content at no cost where our current vendor would charge an amount to change or add anything. Our current vendor was charging on average \$30,000 just for a revamp. This new vendor had an upfront cost of \$12,000 with low monthly maintenance fees overall saving tons of money.

Mayor Kim asked if there were any more questions.

- RESOLUTION 2024-183 Authorization of Hire Department of Public Work Summer Seasonal Employee (Re: J. Quiroa)  
RESOLUTION 2024-184 Authorization of Hire Department of Public Work Summer Seasonal Employee (Re: M. Baten)  
RESOLUTION 2024-185 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: E. Simon Jr.)  
RESOLUTION 2024-186 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: B. Garcia)  
RESOLUTION 2024-187 Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: E. Alonzo)  
RESOLUTION 2024-188 Award Contract for Swimming Pool Snack Bar Renovation and Operation. (Re: S&I Corporation)  
RESOLUTION 2024-189 Authorization of Payment of Police and Fire Phone Lines System. (Re: Professional Services Group)  
RESOLUTION 2024-190 Authorization of Extending Term of Interim Borough Administrator (Re: R. Hurr)  
RESOLUTION 2024-191 Hiring of Volunteer Summer Internship (Re: E. Duong)

Deputy Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announces the acceptance of resolutions 2024-161 through resolution 2024-191 except resolution 178 which had been tabled.

Mayor Kim requested a motion. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, seconded by Councilman Min. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang:	Yes
Councilman Kim:	Yes
Councilwoman Lee:	Yes
Councilman Min:	Yes
Councilman Vietri:	Yes (EXCEPT RES-170, RES-182)
Councilwoman Won Yoon:	Yes (EXCEPT RES-166)

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported the library board had a meeting. There were new carpets installed and the mold that was found under the original carpeting had been removed.

Councilman Vietri had nothing to report.

Councilman Kim has nothing to report.

Councilman Min reported he was working with Police Director Michael Gardner on a traffic plan which would involve a better view for drivers in areas where there was a high volume of accidents. Councilman Min explained when cars were crossing from South to North, or East to West there were some parts of the road you could not see. He hoped for the plan to be completed hopefully by next month's work session. Councilman Min stated whatever we could do from a borough standpoint in order to get it done was what was being aimed for. Mayor Kim said we had been waiting on the county report for a long time, about a year.

Councilwoman Jang invited Kenneth Bruno, superintendent of DPW to make a report.

Kenneth Bruno reported there were 17 street signs that had been replaced, including alternate side parking signs, and stop signs. The DPW had ordered 31 name signs after identifying which signs were missing. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno explained this process took longer than expected because each sign had differentiating sign holders and new hardware had to be ordered. Kenneth estimated these new pieces should be delivered within three weeks.

DPW Superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated the mayor and council asked to look into a power washer for Broad Avenue because some of the roads were looking pretty rough. There was a company recommended by the borough of Fort Lee that is meeting with him this upcoming Thursday to walk Broad Avenue and get pricing.

DPW Superintendent Kenneth Bruno reported DPW was also putting more garbage containers on Broad Avenue. The council had placed an order, and when they arrived DPW would work together in placement and installing. The council had also ordered more benches that would come to DPW as well. He explained Mayor Kim ordered planters to beautify the avenue. He also addressed that there were 125th anniversary signs put up with flags for the 4th of July. He announced public service would be beginning work July 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of the year starting at Broad Avenue to 14th Street. DPW Superintendent Kenneth Bruno explained every tree that was hanging over their power lines they would be cutting to below the powerlines. Public service would be working on it during the four hours of alternate street parking. He also expressed that anyone with questions can reach out to the DPW. Kenneth Bruno went on to speak about parking spaces being maximized by new lining. He explained that DPW did not have the proper equipment to ensure the lining was not removed. He explained if the DPW just painted the lines, the lines would most likely disappear after the winter due to the constant salting and plowing.

Mayor Kim stated the reason we had to consult with Borough Engineer Steve Collazuol was because in the past, they did not want to increase taxpayers' taxes so they searched for grants in order to repave. Some roads in town did not qualify for DOT grants such as dead-end roads. Right now, we needed to find out which grants we could apply for in order to get these roads paved.

Councilwoman Jang addressed the issue a few residents brought up at the last meeting pertaining to properties in town not being maintained such as the grass getting too high, and garbage being left outside. She explained John Gralla had been issuing tickets but he could not go and do the work for them. Councilwoman Jang asked for residents to please take care of their property and trash. She also thanked the town pool for the replacement of the roof for the pavilion and pumphouse. She stated today they were making a deal with the snack bar. Councilwoman Jang praised Pool Director Karen Nascenti, stating she had already over-achieved the revenue for the pool which was \$25,000 more than last year.

Mayor Kim asked DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno to come up to speak about the PSEG situation at 317 4th Street. He came up and stated he went to the property but not on the property, to take a look at the issue pertaining to a resident home constantly being flooded with water because of the improper paving of the street. DPW Superintendent Kenneth Bruno asked the resident if there was a drain in front of her driveway because it looked like there was but it was covered with cement. The resident was unsure.

Councilwoman Jang also reported July 4th was a national holiday, she invited residents to also attend the 125th town anniversary party located at the town pool on July 7th from 5PM-8PM. She reminded everyone that there would be free food, admission, and festivities.

Councilwoman Lee reported the three schools had their graduation ceremonies and they all went well. This Wednesday there would be a special meeting to close out the school year. The new year would begin on July 1st.

Councilwoman Lee said she was proud to be part of the council that prioritized the safety of the residents. She went on to explain that yes, it would be an inconvenience for some people but the purpose of the council was to prioritize the safety of residents.

Mayor Kim asked what were some of the colleges that graduates would be attending. Councilwoman Lee stated there were some students going to schools such as MIT, and also Harvard. Mayor Kim elaborated that these were students that had gone through the public school system here in Palisades Park. Mayor Kim asked Councilwoman Lee to elaborate on the meeting they would have about optimize the learning experience. Councilwoman Lee explained the Board of Education wanted to meet with the council to talk about what we could do collaboratively to ensure students achieved their best. Mayor Kim said Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz, the Board of Education Borough Attorney, and Councilwoman Lee would sit down and see how the school systems could be improved during the summer time.

Mayor Kim reported there would be a 4th of July firework show. The fireworks were going to shoot up behind ShopRite and the football field was going to be available for people to come and watch the show. He assured everyone that the football field was the 1000ft safe zone, and there would be ample security and road details to ensure safe travels. Mayor Kim said it would be the best view of the fireworks. He stated there was a huge event taking place right across the river by the movie theater at Overpeck Park. That side was going to host performances, and events but he invited people to come to Palisades Park for the fireworks for the best view possible.

Mayor Kim extended his appreciation for the patience, and acknowledged the group of residents demanding a ceasefire resolution as well as the group of residents demanding antisemitism enforcement. Mayor Kim explained that both had been spoken about and started with the antisemitism policy. He stated if council members had no objection, the borough attorney would explain the precise procedure.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz explained at this time, the state was going through a redefinition of the antisemitism law. Once the bill was passed, Mayor Kim exclaimed he did not have an issue with putting in a resolution as long as the council did not object. Mayor Kim went on to address the resident's concerning the ceasefire in foreign countries, specifically residents representing Palestine. Mayor Kim explained there was a discussion about what was best and why we were here as elected officials to represent and prioritize the best interest of the residents of the borough, services, quality of life, and improvements in Palisades Park. He elaborated, concerning the outside situation going on if we decided to side with one or the other, we would then be making a political decision and that should not be put at the top of the list. Therefore, without the objection of the council members, Mayor Kim stated he would like to deny the request.

Borough Administrator Raymond Herr reported because of the recent heat wave we had a cooling center set up in the borough and the library. BA Raymond Herr thanked the police and office of emergency management in seeing these centers were set up. He stated, if need be, tomorrow and Wednesday the library and council chambers could be used as a cooling station. He also stated that he can have the resolution ready for the council to approve a new company to do employee background checks on new employees hired on next meeting. He also reported that we were currently working with Millenium Strategies, our grant company. The Borough Engineer, Steve Callozuol was going to see what grants we could get and how we could use them to improve the borough. He mentioned the repaving of streets, a new security system including a change of locks starting today lasting about a week. He stated he had spoken directly with John Gralla, the code enforcement officer, and he was issuing numerous violations. He also spoke with the courts to be as aggressive as they could be with getting the violations out and acting upon them. He mentioned the phone resolution had been tabled, and he would be working on finding out what happened with the other phone company and the status of that. He stated he would have the report no later than the next meeting.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained the state assembly bill in regards to antisemitism. Scott Krumholz explained the state of New Jersey legislature created assembly bill 3558 introduced February 5th which attempted to define antisemitism, created public awareness and an appropriate look towards public awareness campaigns against antisemitism. He stated it was in the town's firm's opinion until this bill had been vetted and passed. It would be premature and irresponsible of the borough to adopt a resolution regarding antisemitism not knowing how the state would define and deal with it. He believed it would be more appropriate to wait until the bill is passed as a law, and coattail a resolution into specifics of the bill that was passed to ensure legal conformity.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholtz asked everyone to take a look at bill 3558. He mentioned the main supporter was Gary Schaer, and there were also a lot of cosponsors as well.

Mayor Kim calls up Police Chief Anthony Espino but he was absent from this meeting. Mayor Kim calls up the Police Director to make his report. Police Director Michael Gardner stated Chief Anthony Espino was not at the meeting tonight, but he did ask the police director to give his report for him in lieu of his absence.

Police Director Michael Gardner mentioned this past month, he had heard a lot of people complain that police officers did not do their jobs. He made it a point to recognize officers that went above and beyond during a very tense situation. He announced four commanders Sean Cotrell, Patrolman Salvatore Farnese, Patrolman Robert Loewrigkeit, Patrolman Chang Han, and Patrolman Corey Havens were contacted by dispatch to aid a woman in labor. When they arrived, the baby was already partly out, and all officers took action. Officer Farnese kept the mother calm until the EMT's arrived, ultimately resulting in the delivery of a healthy baby. Police Director Michael Gardner made it a point to mention officers were doing their jobs, but they were also doing the right thing. He announced there were two employees of the borough that were approved to attend the police academy. One of these employees realized while working out that he had back pain which may have been related to a previous car accident that went unnoticed. This individual stated that he went to a doctor and they would not approve him to take the physical exam to attend the police academy. The second employee had passed all required tests and would be attending the academy in August. He also mentioned a special enforcement officer was offered to attend the police academy, but for whatever reason he was deferred. If this special enforcement officer passed the physical test he would go to the academy. Police Director Michael Gardner reported Junior Police Academy started today, and was going very well.

Police Director Michael Gardner began to give the monthly report for May. He reported there were 42 municipal ordinance violations, 470 traffic enforcement stops, 222 parking enforcement tickets, 333 area/property checks, 85 medical assistance calls, 46 citizen assistance, 71 post coverages (cross guard coverage), 100 temporary restraining orders, totaling 2137 calls for service in May. He reported there were 19 adult arrests, and 62 cases filed all closed, except one. He specified that at the last meeting there were comments made about multiple accidents occurring at Central Boulevard. There were a total of 80 motor vehicle accidents for the month of May, and out of those 80 accidents only three occurred at Central Boulevard therefore, it was not a hot spot. He stated that Councilman Min, Police Chief Espino, Captain Gasparovich, and himself went out and walked to the different areas. There were a number of these locations that were not in compliance due to the parking locations set too close to the corners. Once they got the county reports, they would look at other streets mentioned throughout the borough and try to apply county recommended remedies minimizing liability to the borough.

Mayor Kim announced they were waiting for the county report which he now had. Mayor Kim explained Chief Espino was working on our own strategy and our own remedy to reduce the number of accidents.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the session and open to the public. Councilman Min made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All in favor. None opposed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Ronda Mohammed stated she did not know how the mayor could sit there and say a ceasefire was not his top priority. She acknowledged the rise of antisemitism but it seemed like he did not care about the Muslims in the community that had been a victim of Islamophobia.

Ronda stated she had been personally harassed since this all had started and no one seems to care. Ronda stated how dare the mayor say it was not at the top of his priorities when there were children dying. She stated the community was asking for the mayor to do something. Ronda used other towns that had passed a ceasefire resolution such as Ridgely, North Bergen, Haledon, Wayne, and Perth Amboy. She stated she is constantly attending meetings, constantly asking, and being ignored. She asked what is so hard about passing a ceasefire ordinance. She stated they were not asking for the mayor and council to pick sides. She addressed Mayor Kim's comment addressing her as Palestinian when she was Egyptian representing those that are dying. Mayor Kim apologized. Ronda stated it was not an international issue, but a humanitarian issue and if he was educated enough on the issue, he would understand the town paid

for the weapons that were going over killing those people. For Mayor Kim to say it was not a top priority made her think that he was insane because he needed to make it his priority. Mayor Kim stated he did allow council members to give their opinions. Mayor Kim stated it would be choosing something most Bergen County towns had not evolved to yet. Mayor Kim stated this was not something that directly affected the residents of the Palisades Park borough. Ronda stated she just explained how it affected them. Mayor Kim said he was sorry she felt that way, but she needed to come with petitions to prove a following in the town. Ronda responded that he kept saying that to her, that she needed to come with petitions, like petitioning was a big deal. Mayor Kim said it was a big deal to her, that was why he was addressing it. Ronda said he would be upset when she created a huge protest outside the building.

Neris Papoters addressed Councilwoman Jang and said she was very happy about the town pool. The forms of payment also including a credit card reader could help the flow of people as well. She questioned Councilman Min regarding when the employee placards would be ready. She also directed a question towards the DPW and asked if their sweeper was broken because her street had not been cleaned. Neris stated the last time she was at a meeting she voiced her concerns about people parking on her street and drinking alcohol while leaving garbage outside. Neris thanked the police, and said that since then she had seen an increase in police presence on Glen Avenue. Mayor Kim responded that the police director was working on the issue on Glen Avenue.

Kenneth Bruno, Superintendent of DPW came up to speak. He said the sweeper had not been down, and they would only sweep on the streets where there was alternate side parking. He said to miss these streets were almost impossible because one guy does it everyday and there had never been a complaint.

Neris stated on Glen Avenue there was no parking on one side Fridays, and the other side on Thursdays. the only reason he could think of is there were cars that were not moved and the sweeper had to go around. Superintendent of DPW Kenneth Bruno also specified that the sweeper did not do the Lindbergh side when teachers were parked. Neris responded that the Thursday and Friday that just passed, her street was not cleaned, but hopes to see the sweeper out next Thursday.

Councilwoman Jang stated the town's sweeper had been used for about 15 years. She elaborated, the town did have to fix the sweeper many times. In January Councilwoman Jang was given a report by DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno to try and obtain a new sweeper for the past two years. She stated last year we had an agenda matter on the report estimating a new sweeper to be around \$400,000. After questioning why it was so expensive it was concluded that the actual cost would be around \$219,000 for the new sweeper. The current sweeper required only CDL drivers to operate, but the new sweeper did not require any special licenses and individuals could operate the sweeper with a regular driver's license. She said the sweeper had broken down again, and repairs were going to be around \$10,000. The town had already spent \$4,000 on the repair of the sweeper during the Spring. Councilwoman Jang stated she is going to consult with the mayor and council to consider buying another sweeper. She stated DPW superintendent would get a quote closest to the \$219,000 they were quoted two years ago. Councilwoman Jang stated they were going to try and get a new sweeper as soon as possible.

Mayor Kim briefly summarized what Councilwoman Jang announced about the sweepers, and he asked DPW superintendent to act quickly on this as to his understanding there was no active sweeper at the moment. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated that was incorrect, the sweeper was working but the undercarriage was rotten. He said also on heavy rain days the sweeper did not go out because it would just pick up water.

Councilman Min stated the new placards would be issued starting tomorrow. So far, there had only been forms received from the Clerk's Office, Library, Health Department, and Court Office. Starting July 1st, they would start to distribute warnings if employees did not bring their registration forms there would be violations issued.

Neris thanked the mayor and council for working closely with the Board of Education.

Hala Morales thanked Mayor Kim for putting out a public statement that he would not be choosing sides. She felt it brought an opportunity to really be able to see eye to eye and really understand the mayor. Hala stated it was strange the way he chose to address the people, and how he divided them. Hala said they were all looking for the same things. She stated she was not sure if Mayor Kim looked at the proclamation he was emailed, but she summarized it if he had not yet. Hala read, "Palisades Park stands with solidarity of Palestine and Israel who are suffering as a result of violence and hostilities being inflicted as a result of the war in Gaza." Hala stated these people who came to the meeting tonight were not asking Mayor Kim to choose sides but to have a humanitarian approach. She said it was inconsiderate the way Mayor Kim addressed the people because the division was not necessary. She goes on further to say it was disheartening to not be given the proper information and to not be heard. She took the newly passed alcohol ordinance, and stated the mayor and council could look at what surrounding towns are doing

pertaining to closing liquor stores at a certain time, but just because the towns who passed a ceasefire resolution were not in Bergen County, they were not willing to look at them as examples. Mayor Kim stated that crimes against people stemming from discrimination were classified under a hate crime. He responded that whatever the conflict was that was going on, these crimes were always covered under a hate crime. Mayor Kim stated it was not about choosing sides, but why focus on things that were happening on the other side of the world if it did not directly relate to Palisades Park.

Hala Morales responded it certainly did relate because the mayor and council was a governing body. Mayor Kim said yes but not only for Palestinians and Israelis. Hala replied the mayor and council was a governing body just like America was a governing body, and she was just asking for acknowledgement. She stated you could not go and beat up the man who put the asbestos roof in because that would be wrong. Mayor Kim replied she was right, and again, that would classify as a hate crime. She tried another example as an approach to understand. She stated if there was a parking violation would it be fair if instead of issuing a ticket the car was taken and crushed. Mayor Kim responded he was sorry, but there needed to be a petition done to be able to see how everyone in the neighborhood felt, and then they could reconsider depending on how many signatures they received.

Karla came up next and asked how everyone's morning went. She said maybe some got stuck in traffic, maybe some had car trouble, or maybe they split their coffee - although nothing major. Karla loved how Police Director Michael Gardner mentioned the beautiful things the police did with helping deliver a baby. The officers received applause, and excitement. Karla asked the question if that child was more important because he was from Palisades Park, or because he was an American. Mayor Kim said the police did their duty as police officers. Karla agreed, and stated it was their duty, and the mayor who was elected by residents had a duty to represent them. Mayor Kim responded that he agreed but also added on that he had a duty as a mayor to represent all residents. Karla asked if that was his duty, then why was it not his duty to be a humanitarian. She asked why was it that no one cared about the children outside of the United States? Mayor Kim responded that it was not about caring or not caring. He said the women who keep coming to the meetings to speak of this issue were very diligent in expressing their concerns. He stated it would be more effective for the governing body to see how many more people agree with this. Karla asked Mayor Kim if the best advice he could give is to collectively come together and sign a petition, then the mayor would hear them out? Mayor Kim agreed and stated to bring a significant percentage of signatures that would show there was a majority agreement. Karla stated she knew the mayor kept saying these issues are outside of the country, or the borough, but at the end of the day they are human beings. Mayor Kim said there are 72 towns in Bergen County, and asked which towns of those 72 signed a ceasefire resolution. Karla asked if the petitions would change his mind. Mayor Kim stated again, to bring a significant amount of signatures representing their voices, and also how many of those people agreed with the ceasefire resolution. Hala asked if a piece of paper would really change his mind. Mayor Kim said it was their right as residents to petition.

Mayor Kim calls up DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno to speak with the resident who came to the last meeting expressing her concerns about the paving job on her street being done incorrectly resulting in flooding in her driveway. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated the resident's address was 317 4th Street on the West side of the block. He explained her side of the duplex pitches down. The resident showed pictures that when it rained, the water came down the street by her driveway and flowed down. He explained the drain before the driveway was originally put there because of the negative pitch. He suggested taking the top off of the drain, and putting a hose in for 15 minutes to make sure the water ran and flowed out. She showed him pictures of the water cascading down but he directed her to Borough Engineer Steve Callozuol. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated her house was the only house on the block that was building up all that water. He stated he went to the property and he saw where someone tried to patch the front of the driveway because there was blacktop present. In his opinion, first she had to make sure the drain worked, then she had to speak with the Borough Engineer Steve Callozuol to have him go to the address and have him look at it. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated the best time would be when it rains. Mayor Kim asked why Steve Callozuol had to be there during the rain, what was it he had to observe? DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated when it rained, water came down Central Boulevard and sometimes because of the new handicapped ramps, water came over the curb which washed the dirt from people's properties into the driveways. He stated Steve Callozuol would be the best because if the street was repaved then there was a problem. He emphasized any rain storm water would go into her driveway. The resident was accompanied by an interpreter who stated her major point was after PSE&G repaved only her house was getting damaged by the water by coming down into her driveway and flooding into her garage. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated if PSE&G did do the work then the mayor and council needed to see if they had a road opening permit through the borough clerk. Whenever anyone finds out, PSE&G had to come back and repave to fix the issue. Mayor Kim asked Kenneth for his opinion on the pitch. He stated it was a low point coming to the edge of her driveway. Mayor Kim said he would speak to Borough Engineer Steve Callozuol and when it rained, Kenneth and Steve could meet together to check out the property. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno responded to first check if they had a road opening permit to ensure it was done by PSE&G. Councilman Min asked for clarity. He stated the first step was to check to make sure PSE&G had a permit to work on

the street, specifically in that residential area. Councilman Min asked if there was a road opening permit issued, could they go back to PSE&G to fix it. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno responded that the clerk sends DPW road opening permit copies and they could call PSE&G and provide the address and tell them to fix it. First, we needed to know if they actually worked on it.

Councilman Min says Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang had been notified to look for the permit. Mayor Kim asked if the resident knew the date PSE&G did the work. The resident said the work was done in 2019. Mayor Kim said this issue would be addressed.

Nicole Yaeger came up next. She asked for a clear direction and understanding of the petition. She asked if the mayor and council wanted names, addresses and signatures. She also asked how many signatures they wanted. Mayor Kim stated he would not give a designated number but he wanted to see how many signatures they could get in a population of more than 20,000 residents, and 9,000 registered voters. Nicole Yaeger asked if there was a specific percentage they should be aiming for. Mayor Kim stated there was no specific percentage but it did have to be a majority. Nicole asked again, how many votes were needed in order to get something done. Mayor Kim answered he could not give a specific number, but it should be enough to convince the governing body. Nicole asked how many voters on the council there were. Mayor Kim stated there were six, and he only voted when there was a split decision. Nicole asked if the council were the ones who denied the original request. Mayor Kim responded not exactly. He stated he would allow it unless there were any objections from the governing body. Nicole asked why Mayor Kim felt the things going on in Gaza did not have anything to do with Palisades Park when they are taxpayers. Mayor Kim stated Palisades Park did not play a direct role in funding, but the United States government was. Nicole asked Mayor Kim if he was sure. He responded it was funded through a chain, but they did not directly send money for weapons. Nicole asked if she could show how much Palisades Park taxpayer money was going to Israel if that would change his perception. Mayor Kim responded that held no relevance, and taxpayers had to pay taxes to the federal government no matter what. Nicole stated our money did go directly no matter what, but the decision they were asking for a ceasefire resolution is in regards to a genocide occurring. She asked the mayor to demand a ceasefire because resident taxes were in fact going to Israel to fund the war. She stated she was going to him for help, because he was at the top of the food chain. Mayor Kim explained she could not be a representation of the whole town, she must bring numbers.

Soo Chung spoke on the ceasefire resolution. She stated as she had been sitting listening to the women tell the mayor and council, they were not humanitarians, she could not help but disagree. She stated she supported the ceasefire between Palestine and Israel which was why she personally sent in money to Bernie Sanders. She stated as an independent resident, she sent her voice in that way. She stated personally, she was a pacifist and a Buddhist and she did support anti-war, but as a resident she would not bring the issue to the town to be put into a resolution or an agenda. She further stated, each resident had their own group they belonged to. She agreed with the ceasefire but that did not mean it should be brought into policies of Palisades Park.

Susan Brauer was glad the mayor and council were looking into the antisemitism policy. She asked once the bill was adopted by the state, what are the next steps? She stated she had been waiting seven months. Mayor Kim stated if the bill passed, he would propose to the governing body a resolution be created for antisemitism. Susan told Mayor Kim to understand not everyone was in agreement with the state. She stated she understood the new sweeper would be expensive but she thought it was more important than adding benches and flower pots to Broad Avenue. She asked who would be taking care of the planters year around. Susan next spoke of the power washing of Broad Avenue. She believed the amount the borough paid in taxes did not amount to what the residents had to pay in taxes. Susan Brauer stated the relining of the streets was something they should do because there were many areas where there were no parking and people still park there anyways. She said these people should be ticketed or towed. Susan next spoke about the New Jersey Transit buses that come down Henry Avenue from 5:30AM to 7:30 AM. Police used to come and ticket these buses for coming down her street which worked well, but they are back. She stated there were a lot of children on the block that play at the side of the road and when it was covered in snow and these buses came flying down the street it was very dangerous. Susan shouted out Councilwoman Jang and code enforcement officer John Grala. She stated John Grala was great at what he does. Susan expressed she had spoken to him about different things pertaining to residents not caring for their property. Mayor Kim asked the police director to follow up with the New Jersey Transit buses to figure out a remedy for the issue.

Eric Spieley spoke about the flag debate that took place at the last meeting. He understood the flags were up now, but they were never given an explanation as to why they were originally removed. Mayor Kim stated for the past 25 years, not once has DPW missed out on displaying the flag. The only reason they took them down initially was to install the 125th birthday banner. Kenneth stated the flags were taken down June 3rd to put up the banners. He further explained, the flags were put up the second week of May, and taken down the second week of November in order to install the holiday lights, then reinstalled the second week of May. When these banners were put up it was noticed the flags could not be put up with

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the banners because of the height clearance requirements. Mayor Kim stated this only happened once every 25 years. He further explained, if they were to install the banner and flag there would be a lack of clearance for certain vehicles to be able to pass through. DPW superintendent Kenneth Bruno stated the borough received brand new flags, as well as the fire department and the library. He said he would not be able to put the flags up any higher because then they would be hitting the light. Eric understood but asked why they did not know the answer before. Mayor Kim responded because they had to speak with the DPW.

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close the public session. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, followed by Councilwoman Lee who seconded this motion. All in favor, none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Kim requested a motion to close this session. Councilman Min made a motion to close this session, followed by Councilwoman Jang who seconded this motion. All in favor, none opposed

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Deputy Borough Clerk