

Borough of Palisades Park
Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council
January 3, 2024

Mayor Chong Paul Kim opened the Reorganization Meeting at 6:03 P.M.

Mayor read a statement into the record regarding the General Election. He called for the certification of the election, and for the new Councilmembers to be sworn in by alphabetical order. Suk John Min was duly elected to the Palisades Park Borough Council; Councilman Min took the Oath of Office and was sworn into the Office of the Borough Council.

Councilman Min thanked his family, his wife, and Mayor Kim. It had been a challenging and rough year and he stated that without support, he would not be there. He said thank you once again and wished everyone a happy new year. He signed his Oath of Office, and Councilman Min took his seat at the dais.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon took the Oath of Office and was sworn into the Office of the Borough Council. She wished everyone a happy new year. For the past three years, she stated that she had been sitting in the audience and she attended every meeting because she firmly believed that attending the meetings and making her voice heard was a civic duty. She was going to move to the dais thanks to the support she received and she had the privilege to represent fellow residents. She thanked everyone and said she would work very hard to represent the residents. She asked everyone to attend the meetings and voice their opinions so that she could hear them and do her best to reply to everyone.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon signed her Oath of Office and took her seat at the dais.

Councilwoman Lee thanked everyone for their support. It was a great honor to be a part of the Council for the town. She would commit herself to working hard with other Councilmembers to correct what was done incorrectly and maintain what was done correctly.

Mayor Kim read proclamations from the Senate and General Assembly into the record. These proclamations were for Hon. Councilman Park and Hon. Councilwoman Pirrera.

There was a proclamation for Cyndy Pirrera, which would be sent directly to her house.

The Mayor proceeded to swear in the Fire Department Officers.

Chief of Fire Department, Alex Monteleone

Deputy Chief, John Mantone

Battalion Chief, Robinson Rivera

Hose Company #1
Captain, Alex Cancian
Lieutenant, Robert DeVito
Commissioner, Michael Valente

Hose Company #2
Captain, Perry Bonaguaro
Lieutenant, Stephen Killion
Commissioner, Andrew Chiurazzi

Hook & Ladder #1
Captain, James Roper
Lieutenant, Christopher Alvarez
Commissioner, Hector Contreras

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 Attorney Allan Roth	Present
Borough Clerk Gina Kim	Present
Deputy Clerk Sophia Jang	Present

Mayor Kim recognized Sarah Kim and other Board of Education members - Rebekah (Hyun) Lee, Charlie K. Shin, Soo Chung.

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The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, NJSA 10:4-6, was enacted to ensure the right of the Public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of any public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed and acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Borough Clerk has caused notice of this meeting to be advertised and posted, announcing time and place thereof.

1. Notice was filed December 20, 2023 with The Record & Newark Star Ledger, both official newspapers of the Borough.
2. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board
3. Copy is preserved in the Clerk's Office.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mayor Kim explained the voting process for Council President. There would be a motion to open nominations, place nominations, close nominations.

Councilwoman Jang made the motion to open nominations. Councilman Kim seconded. 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

Councilman Vietri nominated Councilman Kim.
Councilwoman Won-Yoon nominated Councilwoman Jang.
Councilwoman Lee nominated Councilman Min.

Councilman Kim made the motion to close the nominations. Councilwoman Jang seconded. 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

Nominations were now closed.

Clerk Kim announced the nominations. Councilman Vietri nominated Councilman Kim, Councilwoman Won-Yoon nominated Councilwoman Jang, and Councilwoman Lee nominated Councilman Min.

Councilwoman Jang made the motion to nominate the Council President. Councilman Kim seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Jang	Min
Councilman Kim	Min
Councilwoman Lee	Min
Councilman Min	Min
Councilman Vietri	Kim
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Jang

Clerk Kim announced that Councilman Min won the majority.

The Mayor announced the Standing Committees List for 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND BEAUTIFICATION

CHAIR - VIETRI
MEMBER - LEE

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/SENIORS

CHAIR - VIETRI
MEMBER - KIM

DPW

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CHAIR - JANG
MEMBER - KIM

FINANCE

CHAIR - WON-YOON
MEMBER - LEE

HEALTH

CHAIR - KIM
MEMBER - VIETRI

LIBRARY

CHAIR - WON-YOON
MEMBER - MIN

POLICE/FIRE/OEM

CHAIR - MIN
MEMBER - JANG

RECREATION/SWIMMING POOL

CHAIR - JANG
MEMBER - WON-YOON

SCHOOL BOARD

CHAIR - LEE
MEMBER - MIN

GOVERNANCE

CHAIR - MIN
MEMBER - WON-YOON

RESOLUTION 2024-2 - MAYOR'S NOMINATIONS AND/OR APPOINTMENTS:

Councilwoman Jang made the motion to adopt Resolution #2024-2. Councilman Min seconded. 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

The Mayor wished a Happy New Year to everyone. He was privileged and humbled to address everyone as the Mayor of a dynamic and diverse town. The shared commitment to progress and community well-being was the driving force behind collective efforts. In pursuit of a better tomorrow, mistakes of the past needed to be recognized and learned from. Reform was not just a necessity. There was a duty to fix what needed fixing to ensure actions paved the way for a future that was free of pitfalls of the past. This was why the new Governance committee was created. Among other duties, this committee would review, update, amend, and abolish some outdated ordinances. Efficient governance was at the forefront of the agenda. By improving processes, the Governing Body was dedicated to providing residents with more services and greater benefits. The vision encompassed a better school system, safer streets and a more welcoming and presentable Broad Ave, which was the one mile long heartbeat of commerce. They understood the significance of a thriving local business district. The commitment was unwavering in ensuring growth and prosperity. They would like to encourage eclectic business representation and a wide range of international restaurants. Fast tracking the installation of solar LED street pole lights and creating a new public parking space for 50-70 people near to Broad Ave was in the works. While they cherished and honored the predominant Korean-American community, they recognized that fostering diversity was key to long lasting success. The cooperation of the entire community was essential in achieving this and embracing diversity was not just a choice. It was a strategic imperative that strengthened the social fabric and paved the way for more inclusive and prosperous Palisades Park. The success lies in collaboration and understanding, and shared goals. As they moved forward, he wanted to work hand in hand to create a Palisades Park that reflects the values and aspirations of each and every resident. Together, he wanted to build a legacy that stands the testament, the strength and unity of a remarkable community. He was thankful for a fresh new start to a new beginning and embarking toward a brighter and more inclusive and prosperous Palisades Park.

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Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked about the continuance of the cash management plans. She wanted to see the plans. She wanted to know the difference between Resolutions #2024-4 and #2024-5. She asked about Resolution #2024-10 - appointment of special police persons. She wanted to know what their jobs were. She asked why the petty cash fund amounts were all different.

The Mayor stated that the petty cash is up to the prerogative of the Councilmembers. The cash management plan was prepared by the CFO. It was a statutory requirement.

Mr. Roth answered that this was for the accounts that the Borough already had, and #2024-5 was the signatures needed. Mr. Roth explained what Special Police Officers did.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Kim made the motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolutions #2024-3 thru #2024-42. Councilwoman Jang seconded. 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 spoke about transparency with the council and the people. He had not seen any of the Resolutions. He spoke about Councilwoman Jang complaining about receiving the minutes and notes about the meeting on Friday. Councilwoman Jang needed a few more days. Councilman Vietri voted no for the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

Councilman Vietri	No
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Resolution #2024-3 thru 2024-25 - Yes Resolutions #2024-26 thru #2024-40 - Abstain Resolutions #2024-41 and 2024-42 - Yes

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Lee had no report.

Councilwoman Jang had no report.

Councilman Min stated he was thankful for the support. He would do his best to govern with other Councilmembers.

Councilman Kim wished everyone a happy new year, and he pointed out that Dr. Joseph Cirillo had been in the audience.

Councilman Vietri made a comment about the police committee and asked what experience the Councilmembers had with the Police and Fire Department. The Mayor stated that there must be a rotation and allow other Councilmembers to learn. Councilman Vietri stated that transparency was wrong and someone with experience would be beneficial to the police and fire.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon wished everyone a happy new year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Councilman Min made the motion to open to the public. Councilwoman Jang seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Soo Chung asked about the Governance Committee. The Mayor answered that for example, the Committee would review current Ordinances, and ensure that they were following the right procedures and Ordinances. She asked about Resolutions #2024-25 - qualification of professionals. Mr. Roth stated that these were for Borough professionals.

Neris Papoters stated that it seemed like Councilman Vietri was defensive, and it did not seem like he wanted to work with the Council.

JS Heo stated that Councilman Vietri's opinion about receiving the agenda was important.

Marsha Schor asked about the establishment of the meeting dates. This was done by Resolution #2024-9. She requested that the sound system be replaced. She asked about the beautification plan. The Councilmembers decided that it was not the right time. She stated that the building looked lovely for Christmas. Ms. Schor stated that she agreed with Councilman Vietri's opinions about the agenda. The

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Mayor stated that it was a time consuming thing to prepare for the Reorganization Meeting, and it was finished today. He stated that the Work Session will be provided a week before the Regular Meeting.

Youngmin Jung respected the police officers. As a resident of Palisades Park, he read the newspaper articles about the Police Department. The former Mayor promised normalization. The Police Department was heavily influenced by politics.

Susan Brauer wanted to know who was named to the Police and Fire Committee. It was Councilman Min and Councilwoman Jang. She agreed with Councilman Vietri. When Councilwoman Jang first came on, she was not happy with the Police Department before she even got to know it. Ms. Brauer stated that Councilman Vietri had the experience.

Mayor stated that commerce wise, in order to flourish, it was not more than one type of business. He wanted to see diverse options for businesses and restaurants.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Min made the motion to close to the public and adjourn the Reorganization Meeting. Councilwoman Jang seconded. All present in favor by voice vote; none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Attest:



Gina S. Kim, RMC/CMC
Borough Clerk