

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

Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor & Council  
October 28, 2024

Borough of Palisades Park  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
October 28, 2024

Council President Suk “John” Min opened the Regular Meeting at 6:00 P.M

**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	Absent
Councilwoman Jang	Present
Councilman Kim	Present
Councilwoman Lee	Present
Councilman Min	Present
Councilman Vietri	Present
Councilwoman Won-Yoon	Present
Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz	Present
Borough Administrator Raymond Herr	Present

Due to Mayor Kim’s absence, Council President John Min led the meeting.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	September 11, 2024
Work Session of the Mayor and Council:	September 16, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council:	September 23, 2024
Executive Session of the Mayor and Council:	September 23, 2024

Councilman Min asked if there were any questions on the meeting minutes. Councilwoman Jang made a motion to pass the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. 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

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz stated there was an ordinance on the agenda for a second reading at the meeting the week prior that had been removed. There were revisions to the ordinance that had to be made, and a new ordinance was to be submitted in November for a first reading. Councilman Kim asked what ordinance this was for. Councilman Min responded this was for the lead-based paint ordinance.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE 2024-16 Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Various Capital Improvement**

Councilman Min stated this was just the introduction of the ordinance, and advised councilmembers to look into it and let them know. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked in terms of A-H was there any details of other improvements. Borough Administrator Raymond Herr stated there were further details. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked if she could have a copy of the details. Councilman Min stated the bond briefly summarized where the work was going to be done but did not go into detail. Councilman Min requested all councilmembers be sent the email

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as well. Councilman Vietri wanted to ask a question. Councilman Min asked if it was about the ordinance, and Councilman Vietri confirmed it was. Councilman Vietri questioned letter B Improvements to Central Boulevard. He asked why the borough was paying for it when it was a county road. He asked for an explanation, but no one answered. Raymond Herr stated he wasn't sure but he would get an answer. Councilman Vietri next questioned letter C Temple Terrace including all the work. Councilman Vietri asked if this was from the work that was being done on Route 5 being rolled over into the town. He asked why the borough had to pay, when it should have been through the state. Raymond Herr stated he wasn't sure and he also had to get an answer for that. Councilman Min asked Raymond Herr to get an answer to Councilman Vietri's questions and put it together in a detailed email to the rest of the council. Councilman Vietri asked about letter B installation of LED lights at various locations. He asked if the LED lights were DOT approved because he knew if a street light went out, public service would go and replace it with a solar powered light making it much brighter. Councilman Vietri also asked what the borough liability was if they were not DOT approved. Councilman Vietri questioned letter G pertaining to Palisades Boulevard and Edsall Boulevard. He believed there was a grant for this. He asked if the borough had run out of money and if this was also DOT approved. Raymond Herr answered Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano put together the ordinance so he wasn't sure how to answer his questions other than he would get back to him. Councilman Vietri next questioned letter H regarding Improvements to Broad Avenue. Councilman Vietri stated he believed the borough had a two million dollar grant that was for Broad Avenue, and he believed Councilwoman Jang voted no at the time because there was an extension that had to be put on. He asked what happened to that grant, and questioned if it was dropped or if the money was used. Raymond Herr responded he didn't know anything about that grant. Councilman Min asked if that was the end of Councilman Vietri's questions. Councilman Min went back to Councilwoman Won-Yoon's request for more detail on the bond and added on Councilman Vietri's questions for Raymond Herr to look into and provide a detailed report.

Councilman Min requested a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-16. Councilwoman Jang made a motion with the condition that the council would receive more details. Councilman Kim asked if they had to take questions first before voting. Councilman Min responded this was only an introduction so the second reading would take place the following week. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained this was the first read, and was not a vote to pass the ordinance. Councilman Min stated before the next month rolled around, the Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano and Raymond Herr would provide details where the council would then make the decision on the passage. Councilman Min requested a motion. Councilman Kim asked if this was a motion to introduce. Councilman Min confirmed it was. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. 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, until he heard the answers to his questions.
Councilwoman Won-Yoon:	Yes

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang stated that notice was hereby given that Ordinance 2024-16 Bond Ordinance for Authorization for Various Capital Improvement was introduced and passed on the first reading at the regular meeting of the Mayor & Council, held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and published in accordance with the law. Said ordinance would be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers, at which time all persons interested could have appeared for or against the passage of said ordinance. A copy of the ordinance would be posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and would be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

RESOLUTION 2024-246	Claims
RESOLUTION 2024-247	Acceptance of Audit for the Year 2023

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RESOLUTION 2024-248	Acceptance of Corrective Action Plan for the Year 2023 as Presented by Chief Finance Officer
RESOLUTION 2024-249	Authorization of Raffle License (Re: St. Michael's Church, #RL-675)
RESOLUTION 2024-250	Authorization of Bingo License (Re: St. Michael's Church, #BL-676)
RESOLUTION 2024-251	Acceptance of New Firefighter (Re: M. Bonaguaro)
RESOLUTION 2024-252	Authorization to Approving the Settlement of Potential Claims by Various Performers.
RESOLUTION 2024-253	Authorization to Auction Surplus Equipment
RESOLUTION 2024-254	Hiring a Part-Time Traffic Enforcement Officer (Re: J. Rivera)
RESOLUTION 2024-255	Hiring a Part-Time Crossing Guard (Re: L. Jairo)
RESOLUTION 2024-256	Acceptance of the Resignation of Special Police Officer (Re: Ashraf A. Ghrayeb)
RESOLUTION 2024-257	Authorization to Advertise for the hiring of Part-Time Certified Special Police Officers
RESOLUTION 2024-258	Authorization of Advertise for the Hiring of Part-Time Traffic Enforcement Officers
RESOLUTION 2024-259	Acceptance of Retirement (Re: Police Captain, J. Gasparovich)
RESOLUTION 2024-260	Authorization of Shared Service Agreement with Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority (Re: TV Inspection)
RESOLUTION 2024-261	Authorization of Shared Service Agreement with Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority (Re: Sanitary Sewer Cleaning)
RESOLUTION 2024-262	Advertise for RFQ
RESOLUTION 2024-263	Hiring of Full-Time DPW Employee (Re: S.K.Kim)
RESOLUTION 2024-264	Authorization of Advertise for the Hiring of Part- Time D.P.W Laborers
RESOLUTION 2024-265	Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Korean Host Donations
RESOLUTION 2024-266	Authorization the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the Central Boulevard Improvements Project 02

**DISCUSSION: CONSENT AGENDA 2024-246 THROUGH 2024-266**

Councilman Min asked if there were any questions from the council. Councilwoman Jang asked if the Chief Financial Officer was going to be present at the meeting. Borough Attorney Allan Roth explained that the Chief Financial Officer was not going to be present, and if there were any questions he could call him while the council discussed, and get back to the council with the answer. Councilwoman Jang stated she found out the pool had raised the fee \$25 in early spring but this should have been passed in the ordinance. Councilwoman Jang stated she would follow up with the borough administrator, and Karen Nascenti the pool manager that Wednesday in a meeting. She acknowledged the pool fee, and also asked Karen Nascenti about the day-to-day report on the revenue from the entrance. Karen Nascenti had sent her the report, but she wanted further details like how much money went into the borough's revenue bank account. Councilwoman Jang wanted to update and enhance the process of keeping daily reports for the following summer season. Councilwoman Jang questioned a resolution that she had previously saw on the agenda but did not see it anymore. Councilman Min stated they would come back to her when she figured out what she wanted to ask.

**RESOLUTION 2024-252 Authorization to Approving the Settlement of Potential Claims by Various Performers.**

Councilman Kim questioned the procedure for hiring out of town performers. Councilman Kim asked if there was a contract or anything that was provided. Councilwoman Jang stated that was also her question. Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz explained he couldn't get into too much detail because it was potential litigation, but there should have been contracts attached to all. Councilman Kim asked if the borough was protected by the contract. Scott Krumholz responded the contract established the mutual obligations of each party. Councilman Kim asked if the other party showed any interest in suing the borough. Scott Krumholz responded yes; he could discuss more in detail later. Councilman Kim asked if there was a contract between the performers, and the borough. Scott Krumholz responded technically yes, but there was never anything in writing or signed. Councilman Kim asked if this was a verbal agreement. Scott Krumholz responded there was, and there was documentation to establish they would pay a certain amount. Councilman Kim asked about liability insurance protecting the borough from anything that could have happened at the time. Scott Krumholz stated the individual employee of the borough was handling it and he didn't have the chance to speak to them on the details yet. Scott Krumholz stated he didn't know why there wasn't a contract agreed to, but they were left with the situation

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which they had to then clean up. In terms of liability insurance, there should have been a provision in any contract when it came to someone performing services for the borough. Councilman Kim stated he wasn't worried about other contracts, but this contract for this specific resolution. Scott Krumholz responded there wasn't a contract, so there was no required insurance, and a number of other issues. Councilwoman Jang asked if she could present her opinion on this matter. Councilwoman Jang believed the whole event was poorly planned, and that carried on a poorly consistent procedure. As a recreation committee liaison, she found out that recreation committee member David Terranova received the information on the event three weeks before the date. The whole recreation team worked very hard, and she believed they had actually never worked so hard for anything in town while performing their own duties. Councilwoman Jang stated she really appreciated it, but a \$1,400 settlement was for what. What was the original plan, and promise to the performers. How many performers were promised their money, and how much. Councilwoman Jang stated she read through the whole resolution and it didn't make any sense. To her, she wanted to ask someone who was in charge of the event including planning for the event, and notices of all the merchants who made a donation to the town. Councilwoman Jang was not sure who collected that money, or what accounts the money went into. Scott Krumholz apologized for interrupting Councilwoman Jang but stated that a lot of the subject matter she was speaking about should have been discussed in an executive session, and if she wanted to make a motion to discuss in an executive session, he was more than happy to provide her with all the details. Councilwoman Jang asked if Scott Krumholz had all the answers to her questions. Scott Krumholz replied he did and he was able to tell her everything. Councilwoman Jang asked if she had the detail on what accounts the money went into, what money came out, and why the borough was settling on this matter. Scott Krumholz replied it really had nothing to do with that, but he would provide the information of what he knew and hopefully that would satisfy her. Scott Krumholz agreed to go into an executive session after the resolutions, and they could hold to vote on it until after if she wanted. Councilwoman Jang agreed to make a motion to hold it until they got the rest of the details because as of now, she doesn't have any information. Councilman Vietri stated he also had a few questions on the resolution. Councilman Min asked if they wanted to make a motion to go into an executive session after the resolutions then come back out and vote. Councilman Min requested a motion. Councilwoman Jang made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. Scott Krumholz stated it would be excluded from a vote for now. 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 Min asked if there were any other resolutions to go over.

After the executive session, Councilman Min requested a motion to accept Resolution 2024-252. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. 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

**RESOLUTION 2024-254 Hiring a Part-Time Traffic Enforcement Officer (Re: J. Rivera)**

Councilman Vietri questioned how many police traffic officers were full time and how many were part time. Councilman Min stated he could answer that question but Captain James Rotundo was present so he could answer it as well. Captain Rotundo answered there were zero full-time traffic officers, and there were two full-time special police officers who were identified

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as Jason Shin, and Nelson Then. Councilman Vietri asked if there were any part time traffic officers. Councilmembers corrected that there were no full-time traffic officers. Councilman Vietri asked how many part-time traffic officers there were. Councilman Min stated there were five. Councilman Vietri stated the reason he was bringing that up was because the traffic officers brought in money to the borough. They were out on the roads enforcing overnight parking, and regular street parking up and down Broad Avenue. Whatever was being paid to the traffic officers was going to help the town ten times over. Whatever money would be paid to the traffic officers would be tripled to the borough because of how much money they ultimately brought in. Councilman Vietri commented he believed it was a no brainer to look for full time traffic officers, and he rarely saw the traffic officers when he drove on Broad Avenue. Councilman Vietri commented they were probably working on the side streets. Councilman Vietri believed that was more important than DPW because they were bringing in money to the town. Councilman Vietri wanted to let everyone know he wasn't saying the DPW wasn't important but he felt the traffic officers helped the town a lot because of the money brought in. Councilman Min agreed, and asked for any other questions.

**RESOLUTION 2024-263 Hiring of Full-Time DPW Employee (Re: S. K. Kim)**

Councilman Min stated in regards to Resolution 2024-263 there was various things the borough had to address. He asked Councilman Kim if he received an answer from the DPW department. Councilman Kim stated he hadn't. Councilman Kim brought up a letter that was written to them about a complaint. He asked if there was a result. Councilman Min responded no; Councilman Jang was going to respond so he didn't get involved. Councilwoman Jang stated she asked around because no one ever acknowledged anything. She couldn't get the details of the complaint at all so there was no complaint. Councilman Min stated excluding that matter, the problem was there was a few other reasons there were so many questions in regard to the numbers of full time and part time employees of the DPW. Councilman Min asked Councilwoman Jang if she received an answer on how many full-time employees and how many part time employees there were. Councilwoman Jang responded at that time; Antoniette Fields, a DPW employee, paid the salary for 13 employees in total from DPW. Councilman Kim asked if those were all full time employees. Councilwoman Jang responded she was told that there were part time and full time employees, but still because they were short of hands, the part time employees were working full time hours. All DPW workers were being utilized fully. When Councilwoman Jang asked how many employees were employed yearly, the number had not gone up at all. She thought the population had grown so much over time, and they needed extra hands. DPW employee, Mr. Kim was currently in the process of obtaining his CDL, and there were four other employees that held their CDLs. Councilwoman Jang mentioned DPW worker Joseph Capuano who had been working at the DPW for 45 years. Joseph Capuano drove the sewer truck, and as more and more time passed there were more problems that arose, and extra hands were needed for emergency cases. Charlie Chung was another DPW employee that drove the town sweeper. Councilwoman Jang originally questioned what was the delay in getting the new sweeper, but after speaking with Borough Clerk Sophia Jang, she was told that it was already ordered and being worked on. The time span would take about six months for completion, and the current sweeper kept breaking down. It was \$3,500 to fix, then it was \$4,800 to fix, and then finally it had broken down again with a repair cost of \$10,000. Councilwoman Jang hoped they would receive the sweeper as fast as they could. Councilwoman Jang mentioned Glen Pallotta that was employed as the senior bus driver who also had his CDL, and when they had emergency cases, he could operate whatever DPW vehicle was needed. Councilwoman Jang next mentioned Robert Bell that was employed for the DPW as well, and how he was helping out a lot. Councilwoman Jang stated if there were a few more people who had their license, even though the new sweeper didn't require the operator to hold a CDL, they would be given the extra help. Until that time, DPW workers were going to continue to work hard doing many different tasks. Councilwoman Jang stated she was going to take this resolution out, and Resolution 2024-264 for the part time employees because she wanted to know first if there were current part time employees that were also eligible for full time positions. She asked if Resolution 2024-264 could be taken out. Raymond Herr explained Resolution 2024-264 was for the advertisement not the actual hiring of any employees. This would be an advertisement put in the paper so people could apply for the position, and it didn't necessarily mean the borough had to hire. Raymond Herr notified Councilwoman Jang if she didn't want to hire any one that submitted an application she didn't have to. Councilwoman Jang thought if the borough gave a time period for the length of

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the advertisement, then people would apply, and it wasn't right to make them wait long. As the borough administrator had mentioned this was just approving the advertisement, so Councilwoman Jang stated she had no conflict with it. Councilman Vietri stated in reference to the sweeper, a year prior the same council had questioned multiple different aspects. For one, the sweeper was breaking down because it was old, and finding parts to fix it would be nearly impossible. Councilman Vietri stated that was exactly what happened. Councilman Vietri continued that the other dilemma was that the time span to get the sweeper was between six months to a year. Now, the borough was saying they needed a new sweeper at that moment and it wasn't how it worked. Councilman Vietri stated they should have done this the year prior when the ball was dropped initially. There was a six to twelve month waiting period, and all he said was it should have been done before because this was just another headache that was created. Councilman Min wanted to go back to the conversation of the CDL, and remembered back in July there were two full time employees that were hired, including one part time employee. Councilman Min asked if the opportunity of obtaining a CDL was also given to the others. Councilwoman Jang stated it was offered but they didn't request for the fee to be reimbursed. Councilwoman Jang stated she was sure Mr. Kim was paying for it on his own at the time, as he already started the program. Councilwoman Jang stated they could most likely let him know he would be covered. Councilman Kim explained the reason a lot of towns preferred hiring part time employees instead of full time employees was because of the insurance and benefits. Councilman Kim asked since they were planning to put up an advertisement for part time positions, why didn't they wait and see how many people were interested in the position first. If there were a lot of part time interests then there was no reason to have full time employees hired to give them benefits, and other perks. Councilman Kim asked Raymond Herr how many days estimated it would take for the borough to get some results from the advertisement. Raymond Herr responded that was very hard to say, and the person who was in the resolution was a current employee who worked for the DPW in a part time capacity. Raymond Herr also specified that the DPW supervisor stated he really needed another full-time employee at that moment and then they could replace them. Councilman Kim asked if they could have two part time employees carried over to full time later on. Raymond Herr responded that the supervisor stated he needed another person right away because they were getting very close to the middle of leaf collection season. Councilman Vietri asked for Raymond Herr to tell everyone how long Mr. Kim had been working at the DPW. Raymond Herr explained this was one of the three part time employees that were hired several months ago. Councilman Min corrected that they hired one part time employee, and two full time employees. This person was hired in July so it had been a couple of months. Councilman Min continued that the reason this issue was brought up was because the size of the town and number of residents had increased. There were 13 full time employees, and only a few part time employees. Compared to other towns, there shouldn't have been any problems with the amount of people that were currently employed. To give benefits and insurance was something that really had to be thought about to see if it was really necessary to hire full time in order to make things run better. Councilman Min stated that was his opinion on whether they would hire or not. Councilman Vietri stated he agreed with Councilman Kim to keep him part time. Councilman Vietri asked if Councilman Min had stated the DPW had 13 full time employees. Councilwoman Jang stated there were actually nine full time employees. Councilman Vietri asked if it was nine or thirteen. Councilwoman Jang stated Antoinette Fields stated the week prior she had paid out the salary for thirteen people. Councilman Vietri asked what she meant because if they were part time employees they weren't getting paid salary. Councilman Min stated he could name them but he didn't want to, if he went through each person there was 12-13 full time employees. Councilman Vietri stated before they did anything they had to figure out if there were nine or thirteen full time employees. Councilwoman Jang stated there was nine full time employees and three part time employees. The three part time employees worked many hours and it was basically the same amount as the full-time employees. Councilman Kim stated nine and three made twelve. Councilwoman Jang stated maybe thirteen included Antoinette Fields herself. She looked into previous years and saw even one year there were 15 employees. Councilman Vietri stated what happened before didn't matter because they were talking about now. Councilwoman Jang stated Antoinette Fields explained she paid out 13 people and three out of the thirteen were part time employees. Raymond Herr stated he believed counting the superintendent there were nine full time employees and three part time employees. Councilman Min said again just going off of names he could count how many full time and part time employees there were. Councilman Min then asked because he didn't exactly know how many employees were part time and full time, how could they use taxpayers' money to hire more employees. Councilman Vietri stated he agreed with Councilman Min. Councilman Min

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requested a motion to table this resolution in order to get more information. Councilman Vietri stated he had other questions, not in reference to this resolution but in reference to something else. Councilman Min requested a motion to table again. Councilman Vietri made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. 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

Borough Clerk Sophia Jang announced Resolution 2024-263 had been tabled.

**RESOLUTION 2024-264 Authorization of Advertise for the Hiring of Part- Time D.P.W Laborers**

It was agreed that for Resolution 2024-264 the borough would still advertise for part time DPW laborers.

**RESOLUTION 2024-265 Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Korean Host Donations**

Councilman Kim questioned what Resolution 2024-265 was because it was new to him in his 15 years of being involved in the town. Councilman Min stated he could explain briefly explain the resolution. The borough had a lot of visitors coming from overseas, for example South Korea, and the town hosted them. He was sure most of the councilmembers and the mayor had used their own money to entertain these guests. This separate resolution was for a separate fund line designated for donations from these visitors that would be used to host them in future visits. Councilman Vietri asked if this had to be put into the budget first. Councilman Min stated they weren't trying to take any money out of the budget, just to create an account to put their donations to the town in so when they visited the town, that money could be used to entertain them. Councilman Kim stated he understood what he was saying. Instead of using taxpayers' money to host them, the money they donated to the borough would be used. Councilman Min stated that was correct. Raymond Herr stated that did not have to go into the budget. Councilman Kim asked what account the money would be going into. Councilman Min assured that a new fund line item would have to be created. Raymond Herr added on they also would open up a separate bank account just for that money. Councilman Kim wanted to clarify this account would be just for the donations from the visitors. Councilman Min responded he was correct. Councilman Kim believed it was a good idea. Councilman Vietri stated he didn't see it, and he didn't have the paperwork associated with the resolution. Councilman Min stated it was the second resolution from the bottom. He asked if there were any more questions on the resolution.

**RESOLUTION 2024-266 Authorization the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the Central Boulevard Improvements Project 02**

Councilman Min requested a motion to pass all resolutions that were not tabled. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. 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

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**



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Councilwoman Lee had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Jang reported for the recreation department the trunk or treat the previous Saturday was very successful. Councilwoman Jang stated a lot of families came and had a great time. She commented unfortunately not a lot of councilmembers came out to see the children, but it was prepared very well, and the Korean Chamber of Commerce even set up a table to be part of the event. Councilwoman Jang hoped for the following year to have her own car prepared so she could participate.

Councilman Kim reported flu season was coming from January to February so it was time for everyone to receive their vaccines to allow it time to activate in the body. He advised everyone to get vaccinated for the flu and to also be careful with the Coronavirus.

Councilman Vietri had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Won-Yoon reported the 125<sup>th</sup> history book committee was working very hard to develop content. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated they were almost done and were targeting to publish this book sometime in December of 2024. The book committee had meetings every Tuesday in the borough or sometimes thorough Zoom. About 90% of the content was ready, and 10% was still in progress. She hoped all content would be collected by sometime the following two weeks. In December, they hoped to make a big announcement.

Councilman Min reported that he was getting a lot of calls saying there was a lot of stealing from the merchants going on. When it became busy, and the merchants were distracted doing something, there was an individual who would come into the store and grab what they see whether that be a purse, or a wallet. He wanted to announce to residents and merchants to just be aware. He wasn't sure if Captain Rotundo had this information in his report so he wanted to let everyone know.

Borough Administrator Raymond Herr reported that the fire and smoke alarms had been installed in the borough, and had been up and functioning. The sprinkler had been put in the basement and should've been finished within the week. Raymond Herr continued the egress project was moving along nicely.

Officer in Charge Captain James Rotundo reported he would be doing the reporting due to the police director being in the hospital. The police department had enhanced patrol of heavy pedestrian traffic locations which had been brought up as an area of concern at the last mayor and council meeting. Captain Rotundo explained these were called quality of life details where extra officers would be brought in to patrol these areas. He explained this had cut down on the overtime, and helped out in supplying additional manpower to officers when patrolling the road. Captain Rotundo continued the police department was applying for grants for the drive sober, get pulled over from safer streets. This would be going out in the next month or so with announcements to follow at a later date. A lieutenant from the department, along with himself had got together and spoke of the neglect that was being given to officers who were supposed to be given certain awards. Last month, the police department presented a CPR award but that was it. Captain James Rotundo stated that he had ten awards to present, although he knew some officers wouldn't be present because the awards dated back to 2015. Captain Rotundo stated he would read a few words but would be presenting the awards in private. The first award was a life saving award being presented to Detective Scilingo. Captain Rotundo read, "On February 26, 2015 Detective Christopher Scilingo conducted the initial search of a house fire and saved a victim found in his bedroom. At the time Patrolman Scilingo was awarded with a lifesaving award for his prompt alert action and will for disregard for personal safety to save a resident's life." The second award was presented to Detective Frank DeCicco. Captain Rotundo read, "On July 21, 2019 Detective Frank DeCicco performed an exceptional detective duty of an incident that led to the detention of two violent offenders. Detective DeCicco's work ultimately led to the successful conviction of both men. He was awarded the exceptional duty award for an intelligent

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and valuable police service or act material to contributing to a valuable police accomplishment.” The third award was a CPR save award presented to Sergeant Christopher Beck, Detective Frank DeCicco, Patrolman Christopher Scilingo, Patrolman Stephen Kim, and Patrolman Nicholas Terranova. Captain Rotundo read, “On October 29, 2021 Sergeant Christopher Beck, Detective Frank DeCicco, Detective Christopher Scilingo, Patrolman Stephen Kim, and Patrolman Nicholas Terranova performed CPR on a resident. After six rounds of chest compressions the officers were able to save the residents life. They were awarded the CPR save award for their prompt alert and professional actions that saved the residents life.” The next award presented was a unit citation and a meritorious award to Detective Christopher Scilingo, Patrolman Stephen Kim, and Patrolman Matthew Carley. Captain Rotundo read, “On November 13, 2021 Detective Christopher Scilingo, Patrolman Stephen Kim, and Patrolman Matthew Carley saved the life of a 15-year-old suicidal boy who attempted to jump off of a third-floor fire escape. The officer’s heroic actions and willful disregard for their safety saved the life of a resident.” Patrolman Matthew Carley was awarded with the Morus award. Detective Christopher Scilingo, and Patrolman Stephen Kim were both presented the unit citation award. The fifth award presented was the life saving award presented to himself, Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Brian Kunz, and Patrolman William Duarte. Captain Rotundo read, “On November 28, 2021 Captain Rotundo, Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Brian Kunz, and Patrolman William Duarte saved a resident’s life in a house fire. The officers were awarded for their disregard of their personal safety and prompt and alert action which resulted in the saving of the borough resident’s life.” The sixth award was a CPR save award presented to Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Theodore Christolias, Patrolman James Chang, Patrolman Matthew Carley, Patrolman Robert Loewrigkeit and Patrolman Robert Then. Captain Rotundo read, “On May 6, 2021 Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Robert Loewrigkeit, Patrolman James Chang, Patrolman Matthew Carley, and Patrolman Robert Then successfully performed CPR on a borough resident. Through multiple rounds of CPR, the officers saved the life of the resident. They were awarded to CPR save for their prompt alert and professional actions that saved the residents life.” The next award presented was the life saving award, presented to Detective Michael Lee, Patrol Officer Natalia Kim, and Patrol Officer Kristen Lee. Captain Rotundo read, “On March 30, 2022 Detective Michael Lee, Patrol Officer Natalia Kim, and Patrol Officer Kristen Lee saved the life of a 21-year-old resident who had committed suicide by hanging himself. The officers cut the young man down and began CPR which resulted in the saving of the resident. The officers were awarded the lifesaving award for their prompt alert and professional actions that saved the life of the resident.” The eighth award presented was the exceptional duty award. This award was presented to Patrolman Michael Bruno. Captain Rotundo read, “On May 22, 2022 Patrolman Michael Bruno coached and negotiated with a suicidal party to refrain from killing himself, and ultimately accept emergency medical help. If not for Patrolman Michael Brunos professional and calm demeanor, the incident could have resulted in a loss of life. Patrolman Bruno was awarded the exceptional duty award for his intelligent and valuable police service demonstrating extraordinary faithfulness and perseverance to the materially contributed police accomplishment.” Award number nine was a unit citation award presented to Detective Michael Lee, Patrolman Stephen Kim, Patrolman Brian Kunz, and Patrolman Nicholas Terranova. Captain Rotundo read, “On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Detective Michael Lee, Patrolman Stephen Kim, Patrolman Brian Kunz, and Patrolman Nicholas Terranova saved the life of a robbery victim who had been stabbed in the leg and bleeding profusely. The officers applied a tourniquet and saved the residents life. They were awarded the unit citation award for distinguishing themselves to effectuate the protection of life and property through the expert professional and prompt action.” The last award presented was a unit citation award presented to Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Michael Bruno, Patrolman Michael McDermott, and Patrolman James Chang. Captain Rotundo read, “On February 11, 2024 Lieutenant George Beck, Patrolman Michael Bruno, Patrolman Michael McDermott, and Patrolman James Chang responded to a disorderly person who was violent and in a warlike rage. In a tight apartment hallway, the actor brandished a large knife directly at Patrolman Michael Bruno. Therefore, placing the officers in fear of imminent danger or death the officers immediately overcame such danger with a taser deployment and arrest. This incident marked the first and only taser deployment in the borough of Palisades Park. The officers were awarded with the unit citation award for a team effort under combat conditions

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who in support of departmental operations and distinguish themselves to effectuate the protection of life and property.” Captain Rotundo continued that these officers were also included in the 200 Club which was a dinner that was held the month prior. Captain Rotundo expressed his gratitude towards each and every officer and was originally upset that these awards were not brought to the attention of the public and mayor and council earlier. A round of applause was heard around the room. Captain Rotundo continued to remind everyone to make sure they continued to lock their car doors, although there hadn’t been many cases of burglaries at that time. There were other things happening in the town that the police department had become better at dealing with, such as traffic safety. The police department had established a new traffic safety unit that had already started to look at things that may have needed revision. Captain Rotundo assured this wasn’t because the police department was neglecting these things, but there were other things that needed to be taken care of first. There were new young officers that would be sent through training to help advance the police department itself, and residents safety. Councilman Min thanked Captain Rotundo for his report.

Borough Attorney Scott Krumholz had nothing to report.

Councilman Kim asked if he could ask Scott Krumholz a question. Councilman Kim asked if there were more lawsuits coming up because he had always found out last minute. Scott Krumholz asked what he was finding out last minute. Councilman Kim responded if someone was suing the town or if somebody put in a final claim against the town. He began to ask if the borough had an affordable housing, but Scott Krumholz cut him off and stated they couldn’t speak about that at that time, but maybe in private. Scott Krumholz continued that the motion that was made in regard to entering an executive session was pertaining to Resolution 2024-252 so if anyone wanted to make another motion to add on to the conversation about what Councilman Kim had wanted to speak about, they could. Councilman Vietri made a motion to go into an executive session and speak of all the law suits that the borough had. Councilman Kim added also the affordable housing. Councilman Min commented there wasn’t really much to talk about. Scott Krumholz responded they could go into an executive session after but there wasn’t really much to talk about on the matter. Councilman Min stated the motion was made by Councilman Vietri, and was seconded by Councilman Kim. Councilwoman Won-Yoon asked what the motion was for. Councilman Vietri responded to go into a closed session so the lawyer could explain some of the lawsuits and affordable housing lawsuits that was going on. Councilman Vietri continued they wanted to know as councilmembers what was going on with the town, and asked Councilwoman Won-Yoon if she wanted to know too. Councilwoman Won-Yoon responded last time they had a similar session, and these things didn’t have progress that fast. Councilman Vietri asked then what should they do, because the last time an executive session was held, there was a bunch of yelling and screaming. The motion carried on a roll call vote and was recorded as follows:

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

Councilman Vietri commented he guessed no one cared about the lawsuits. Councilman Min requested a motion to open to the public. Councilwoman Jang made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Councilman Vietri asked councilmembers in the background if they just didn’t care about the lawsuits. All joined in favor, none opposed. Councilman Min reminded the public that they had three minutes each to speak of the items on the agenda.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Eric Spieley stated he had more than three minutes worth of things to speak about, but he would try to get everything in. Mr. Spieley stated the council had mentioned a few roads that were

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going to be fixed. Mr. Spieley pinpointed Fifth Street, specifically the road people came down off of Route Five after making a right. Mr. Spieley stated it was in horrible shape. Every house on that block had stated the road was new, and he thought that should've said something due to the conditions of the road. Mr. Spieley asked if the CDLs were A or B. Councilman Min responded they were CDL B. Mr. Spieley stated the traffic had been better by the high school. He explained it was a horror daily in regards to parking and traveling while people dropped their kids off at school. These people would sit in their cars, and wait up to an hour before school started to save spots. Mr. Spieley explained these people would leave their cars running and it wasn't even cold outside yet. Mr. Spieley believed this was an issue that needed to be addressed. Mr. Spieley spoke of the traffic cones that were placed by the corners, and stated he believed those helped a lot leaving enough space for two sets of cars to drive by and not just one. He took pictures of people parking on top of the crosswalk lines but the police didn't give anyone tickets. He hoped this would be corrected. Mr. Spieley next spoke of the people that lived in the duplexes. He stated these duplexes had two car garages that people used as a warehouse. He believed these people should be taxed extra for running a business out of their home and using their home as a warehouse space. He said these people were getting a free ride when other residents had to pay all the taxes so he believed it was something worth looking into.

Loretta Martini sarcastically thanked councilmembers for fixing the microphones. She stated they sounded terrible and it was hard to hear anything. She had been attending meetings for three years and the microphones had never been fixed. Ms. Martini stated the microphones were either too far away from the speaker or just didn't work at all. Councilman Min did a test of the microphone and told Ms. Martini he would put them up closer to councilmembers. Ms. Martini next spoke of the house on Bergen Boulevard that was being built, and explained that this property took up a whole lane. There were originally two lanes, but now one lane was used only for the building. She stated she had asked everyone where the permits were for the use of Bergen Boulevard and Central Boulevard. The week prior, Ms. Martini explained that a ShopRite tractor trailer hit a pole, and knocked it down. She asked if anyone ever went up there to make sure everything was being done properly. There was no response. Ms. Martini stated it was about six months she had been going to the meetings to tell councilmembers about the same thing but no one went to look. Councilwoman Won-Yoon stated she went up to look at the property. Ms. Martini asked if she saw where the tractor trailers couldn't even make a turn. She asked how a building could be put up by a main highway where you can't even see. She expressed that if councilmembers went to take a look, they would be confused at who allowed it.

Soo Chung stated she wasn't sure if she could speak as a board member at the meeting but she had seen on the agenda Resolution 2024-248. Soo Chung stated she remembered some councilmembers were related to the school board, and asked if those members received the emails from the school administrator regarding the underpaid tax money for the year 2021-2022. This was already sent to the chief financial officer the year prior, and also presented again that year. She still hadn't heard any response from the chief financial officer so she requested when councilmembers had heard from him regarding the corrective action plan, if they could notify him to respond to her emails regarding the school board. Soo Chung thanked everyone for the hard work put into the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Soo Chung stated she was in the committee but due to other work needing to be prioritized she couldn't contribute to much. She thanked committee members again and spoke specifically to Lieutenant George Beck and Councilwoman Won-Yoon. Councilman Min asked if there were any other members of the public that wanted to participate.

Councilman Min requested a motion to close the public session and go back to the regular session. Councilwoman Won-Yoon made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Kim. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Min requested a motion to enter into an executive session in regards to Resolution 2024-252. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Won-Yoon. All joined in favor, none opposed. Councilman Min stated if the public wanted to stay for the

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end, and see what happened with the resolution they could wait, and they would try and make the executive session quick.

Enter into the Executive Session.

Councilwoman Jang made a motion to close the executive session which was seconded by Councilman Min. All joined in favor to reopen the regular session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Min requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Kim made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Jang. All joined in favor, none opposed.

Attest:



Sophia H. Jang, RMC  
Borough Clerk