

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MARCH 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in the Council Chambers located within the Municipal Building, 65 Mt. Hope Road, Township of Rockaway, State of New Jersey commencing at 7:35p.m.

Council President Kelley led those present in the Salute to the American Flag.

Council President Kelley called for a Moment of Silence to remember the Service and Sacrifices of the Armed Service Members who Protect our Nation and the First Responders who Protect our Neighborhoods and to remember Joy Weinreich who was a dedicated and active member of the Rockaway Township community.

Present: Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynak, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen, Kelley

Present from Administration: Mayor Michael Puzio, Attorney John Iacofano, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Mr. Gene Garabrant

Council President Kelley stated “this meeting was advertised in the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway on January 11, 2019. Notice was posted on the official bulletin board of Rockaway Township.”

Lieutenant Dachisen was designated as the Sergeant of Arms.

President Kelley read the Township Code 2-5.15.

Township Code 2-5.15 Decorum:

While the Council is in session, the members shall preserve order and decorum. The Council President, at his/her discretion shall direct the Chief of Police or such other person in the Police Department as he may designate to be the Sergeant of Arms at the Council meeting. The Sergeant of Arms shall employ reasonable means to maintain the proper order and decorum consistent with accepted standards.

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

- A. O-19-04 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS AND EXEMPT EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS**

ORDINANCE NO. O-19-04

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS
AND EXEMPT EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY**

IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey that:

Section 1. Exempt employees be paid within the range of salaries listed below retroactive to January 1, 2018 or at that date on which employees or holders of positions shall have been employed in their respective classifications by the Township of Rockaway, whichever date shall be later, and shall remain in force unless otherwise amended.

Section 2. All temporary or part-time employees not herein otherwise provided for shall be paid between \$8.60 and \$25.00 per hour for each hour of actual employment. Said payment schedule shall be consistent with budgeted funds and approval by the Department Head and the Mayor or Municipal Administrator.

Section 3. All salaries and wages as herein fixed shall be paid as follows: All wages for full-time employees and officials shall be payable every other week, that is, every other Friday.

Section 4. EXEMPT EMPLOYEES:

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	MINIMUM ANNUAL SALARY	MAXIMUM ANNUAL SALARY
Business Administrator	\$81,500	\$163,000
Chief Financial Officer	\$70,000	\$140,000
Chief of Police	\$83,000	\$166,000
Director of Community Services	\$65,000	\$130,000
Director of Public Works	\$65,000	\$131,000
Director of Health	\$65,000	\$133,000
Health Officer	\$65,000	\$133,000
Municipal Clerk	\$40,000	\$77,000
Municipal Engineer	\$70,000	\$136,000
Tax Assessor	\$60,000	\$117,000
Tax Collector/Tax Search Officer	\$50,000	\$98,500
Assistant Business Administrator	\$40,000	\$80,000
Personnel Officer	\$40,000	\$73,000
Director of Recreation	\$35,000	\$70,000
Deputy Municipal Clerk	\$35,000	\$68,000
Deputy Tax Collector	\$35,000	\$68,000
Confidential Secretary	\$35,000	\$59,000

PART TIME EMPLOYEES	MINIMUM ANNUAL SALARY	MAXIMUM ANNUAL SALARY
Council Meeting Attendant	\$1,000	\$2,800
Council Member	\$0	\$5,420
Council President	\$0	\$7,550
Registrar	\$0	\$1,500
Assistant Registrar	\$0	\$500
Director of Fire	\$0	\$13,500
Dog Census Taker	\$0	\$4,000
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$0	\$6,500
Emergency Management Deputy	\$0	\$500
Fire Inspector (LEA)	\$15/Hour	\$26.00/Hour
Fire Official (LEA)	\$15/Hour	\$34.00/Hour
Municipal Court Attendant	\$15/Hour	\$20.00/Hour
Housing Officer	\$0	\$3,000
Magistrate of Municipal Court	\$50,000	\$61,550
Mayor	\$0	\$9,520
Recycling Coordinator	\$0	\$5,000
Recycling Attendant	\$10,000	\$22,000
Clean Communities Coordinator	\$0	\$1,500
Parks and Playgrounds Aid	\$0	\$5,500
School Crossing Guard	\$3,000	\$4,275
Sewer Assessment Officer	\$0	\$1,000

Section 5. All Ordinances or parts of an Ordinance inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication thereof as provided.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of an Ordinance introduced by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway at a duly convened Meeting held on January 22, 2019 and adopted on

Christina Clipperton
Acting Township Clerk

Michael Puzio, Mayor

Motion was made by Council Member Sackett, seconded by Council Member Quinn to adopt Ordinance O-19-04.

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive – Ms. Degnan raised concerns about the minimum wage presented in this Ordinance, stated that she believes the minimum wage requirement was changed to \$10.00 per hour.

There was discussion amongst the Council and Administration concerning whether the requirement had come into effect, and there was discussion about whether the salaries presented should be reviewed and possibly amended based on recent budget discussions.

Roll Call Was Taken

Yah Votes: 1 (Council Member Quinn)

Nah Votes: 8 (Council Members Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen and Kelley)

Motion is not carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Rockaway Borough Councilman Mulligan, Council President Smith and Mr. O’Connell – Messrs. Mulligan, Smith and O’Connell came before the Council to explain their plans for the Rockaway Borough side of Parks Lake. Mr. Smith thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the Council and Administration, and stated that both the Borough and the Township work very hard to make Parks Lake an attraction. Mr. Smith explained that the dam at Parks Lake was recently inspected by the DEP and is need of major repairs. In order to make those repairs, the lake will need to be drained. Mr. Smith explained that the Borough plans to dredge their side of the lake while it is drained. There was discussion regarding the creeks on the Township side of Parks Lake that bring in stormwater runoff, and the state of the lake on that side. There was discussion amongst the Council and Administration concerning the potential cost for the Township to dredge at the same time as the Borough, the potential of applying for grants and other maintenance work that would need to be considered with such a large project.

Dr. James McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools – Dr. McLaughlin thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak this evening. Dr. McLaughlin discussed with the Council and Administration, the desire to bring a Police Officer, specifically an SRO into Copeland School. There was discussion regarding the Resolution recently passed by the Board of Education allocating funds for this purpose. There was discussion amongst the Council, Dr. McLaughlin and Administration concerning potentially having officers in all schools. There was further discussion about the importance of having officers in the schools and having the added security to protect the children of Rockaway Township.

David Press, 71 Oakland Avenue – Mr. Press raised concerns about an article in the Daily Record about the Financial Review Board and their report concerning the Police Department. Mr. Press also spoke about Joy Weinreich, and stated that things would not be the same without her.

John Knab, 159 Valley View Drive – Mr. Knab spoke about the Technology Advisory Committee, stated that their last meeting was very productive and asked the Council to consider appointing another member to the Committee. Mr. Knab also questioned whether the other salary ordinances previously adopted would need to be reviewed again because Ordinance O-19-04 was voted down.

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive – Ms. Degnan raised concerns about the posting of Minutes on the Township's website, raised concerns about Ordinance O-19-07 specifically the section proposed to be deleted and was concerned that without this language the residents would not know when meetings would be held and raised concerns about a typo in Ordinance O-19-08. Ms. Degnan stated that she liked that the Council recognized Joy Weinreich and that the town could learn a lot from her.

Jim Warters, 48 Seneca – Mr. Warters echoed Ms. Degnan's concerns about Ordinances O-19-07 and O-19-08, stated that he would like to review the report released by the Financial Review Board, raised concerns about the Minutes not being prepared for the various Council Committees and raised concerns about the many Closed Sessions held by the Council, and expressed that the Minutes should be should be released for the public to review.

Patrick Deo, 11 Valley Road – Mr. Deo stated that the Governor has signed legislation mandating paid sick leave for employees, and asked if the Township had adopted this practice. Ms. Palmieri and Mayor Puzio confirmed that the Township had already been following this practice. Mr. Deo spoke about the recent budget meetings, and urged the Township's residents to attend.

Kathy Kraemer – Ms. Kraemer raised concerns about the parking in White Meadow Lake during snow storms and how it complicates plowing for the Township workers and raised concerns about the condition of the retaining wall at Walmart.

The Council recessed and the meeting resumed at 9:45PM.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. R-19-50 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#18-00003 AGAINST BLOCK 10707 LOT 33 KNOWN AS 127 OAK STREET**
- B. R-19-51 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#18-00018 AGAINST BLOCK 11116 LOT 39.135 KNOWN AS 135 HAWTHORNE CT.**

C. R-19-52 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK, AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES BY VISITING WITH OUR PROFESSIONALS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON APRIL 9TH 2019 BETWEEN 5:00PM – 7:00PM

RESOLUTION # R-19-50

REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#18-00003

AGAINST BLOCK 10707 LOT 33

KNOWN AS 127 OAK STREET

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector's Office has received payment on February 11, 2019 from the homeowner for redemption of **Tax Title Lien #18-00003** on **Block: 10707 Lot: 33** known as: **127 Oak St.** in the name of: **CHERNACK.**

WHEREAS, reimbursements are now required to be made to the following Lien Holder,

CAZENOVIA CREEK FUNDING 11, LLC

PO BOX 54132

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70154

From Tax Lien Redemption Account, Lien, Penalty, Interest and Costs:

TAX TITLE LIEN:	\$	458.19
PREMIUM:	\$	<u>1,700.00</u>
TOTAL :	\$	2,158.19

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Township Treasurer is authorized to prepare a check in the amount of: **\$ 2,158.19** made payable to:

" CAZENOVIA CREEK FUNDING 11, LLC "

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Treasurer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway at a duly convened Meeting held on **March 12, 2019**.

Christina Clipperton
Acting Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION # R-19-51

**REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#18-00018
AGAINST BLOCK 11116 LOT 39.135
KNOWN AS 135 HAWTHORNE CT.**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector's Office has received payment February 13, 2019 from Quicken Loans for redemption of **Tax Title Lien #18-00019** on **Block: 11116 Lot: 39.135** known as: **135 Hawthorne Ct.** in the name of: **Simurra**.

WHEREAS, reimbursements are now required to be made to the following Lien Holder,
**NJSL 301 LLC
650 E PALISADES AVE., STE 2 #258
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632**

From Tax Lien Redemption Account, Lien, Penalty, Interest and Costs:

TAX TITLE LIEN:	\$	68.51
PREMIUM:	\$	0.00
TOTAL :	\$	68.51

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Township Treasurer is authorized to prepare a check in the amount of: **\$ 68.51** made payable to:

" NJSL 301 LLC "

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Treasurer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway at a duly convened Meeting held on **March 12, 2019**.

Christina Clipperton
Acting Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION R-19-52

NJ Local Government Week

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK,
AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND
CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES BY VISITING WITH OUR PROFESSIONALS AT
THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON
APRIL 9TH 2019 BETWEEN 5:00 PM-7:00PM.**

WHEREAS, local government is the government closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, local government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their municipality their home; and

WHEREAS, local government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, local government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, NJ Local Government Week offers an important opportunity for elected officials and local government staff to spread the word to all citizens of New Jersey that they can shape and influence this branch of government; and

WHEREAS, the NJ State League of Municipalities and its member municipalities have joined together to teach citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP AS

FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Rockaway Township encourages all citizens, local government officials, and employees to participate in events that recognize and celebrate NJ Local Government Week.

Section 2. That Rockaway Township encourages educational partnerships between local government and schools, as well as civic groups and other organizations.

Section 3. That Rockaway Township supports and encourages all New Jersey local governments to actively promote and sponsor NJ Local Government Week.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true a true copy of a Resolution Adopted by the Rockaway Township Council at a duly convened Meeting held on March 12, 2019.

Christina Clipperton, Acting Township Clerk

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve the consent agenda.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Sackett, Jackson, Abrahamsen and Kelley)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion is carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Quinn stated that he was glad to see that the cameras on the school buses have worked out and explained that three older buses are being retrofitted with cameras and that two new buses are already set up with cameras. Council Member Quinn stated that the Council should work towards ending meetings by 11:00PM, he explained that his health prevents him from staying any later and that it should be considered out of respect for the residents. Council Member Quinn also explained that the “minority” of the Council has hired their own attorney in the current litigation against the Council, because they do not take the same position as the “majority” of the Council, and that the necessary paperwork has been submitted to Administration.

Council President Kelley explained that his concern with adopting an Ordinance to end meetings at 11:00PM concerns him, because if business has not been completed it will carry over to the next meeting. President Kelley stated that he had sent a memo to the Mayor on March 8, 2019 concerning an official in town concerning that official’s actions.

Motion was made by President Kelley, seconded by Vice-President Abrahamsen to direct the Administration to provide written notice to that Official removing him from all offices that he holds.

Council Member Quinn questioned whether this motion was legal.

Attorney Iacofano stated that without advanced notice, he cannot comment at this time.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 5 (Council Members Jedynek, Palumbo, Smith, Abrahamsen and Kelley)

Nah Votes: 4 (Council Members Quinn, Friedlander, Sackett and Jackson)

Motion is carried.

REPORTS:

Council Member Quinn stated that he had provided his report during New Business.

Council Member Smith commented on Council Member Quinn’s report about the school bus cameras and stated that recently while driving by Circle Drive, a dump truck had sped through a stop sign while children were getting off the bus, no one was hurt but it was dangerous.

Council Member Jedynak questioned whether Administration had any updates concerning the ransomware incident, raised concerns about the “Not Secure” tab on the Township’s website, asked if the issues with the video recording of Council Meetings had been addressed and raised concerns about the budget books posted on the Township’s website missing thirty-six pages.

Council Member Friedlander stated that everything at the Library is going well and thanked the DPW for their hard work during the recent storm.

Council Member Sackett stated that the Township’s sports programs are in need of volunteers and spoke about the status of preparations for Rockaway Township Day.

Council Member Jackson stated that if anyone wished to volunteer for any of the sports programs but aren’t Rutgers Certified, that the Township is holding the class next Thursday, and the Township offers the course three to four times a year.

Council Member Palumbo asked Council Member Quinn if the Police are able to issue tickets based on the video footage recorded by the school bus cameras. Council Member Quinn stated that they could. Council Member Palumbo also spoke about ending meetings by 11:00PM and stated that the meetings could be ran more efficiently.

Council President Kelley thanked the Hibernia Ladies Auxiliary for holding the beef steak and tricky tray event and spoke about the fire company’s excellent response to a recent fire.

CLOSED SESSION:

R-19-53 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, ET SEQ.) TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL OR ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

President Kelley questioned whether Bowlbyville could be discussed publicly.

Attorney Perrone stated that it could, but suggested that the Council meet first, then possibly provide information to the public.

President Kelley stated that he would rather have all necessary Department Heads in attendance to hold a Closed Session to discuss Bowlbyville.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Smith to adjourn the March 12, 2019 meeting, all Council Members unanimously agreed and the meeting was adjourned at .

The next regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for March 26, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Clipperton
Acting Municipal Clerk