

BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CRESSKILL

BERGEN COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 6, 2020

1. Attorney Diktas led the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Borough Clerk announced that this is a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of which at least 48 hours' notice has been given by posting in the Borough Hall, publication in The Record and delivery to all members of the governing body.
3. Mayor Romeo called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.
4. Present: Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
Also Present: Attorney Diktas, Borough Officials Laufeld, Chief Wrixon, Deputy Chief Domville
5. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular meetings of April 1 and April 15, 2020.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous

Motion adopted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

6. Council Member Savas said they are working on ideas on how to open summer recreation. Jason Mitchell is working with the BOE on it. We're also working on an alternate plan for the graduating seniors.

Council Member Spina commended the EMS, Fire and Police Departments for all the work they've done. We were prompt in taking action and we'll make every effort in reopening, especially for the kids.

Council Member Savas said we've got so many helpful residents, especially Jeanette McAnulty that nobody in town is wanting for anything.

Council Member Olmo said we put a letter on the website about the Municipal Pool opening. We are tentatively looking at July 1st, as long as the Governor's executive order is lifted. We have a new landscaping company for the pool.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing – 2020 Budget

7. Motion at 7:42 PM by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to suspend the regular order of business to hold a public hearing on the 2020 Budget.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
No – None
Absent – None
Abstain – None
Motion adopted.

8. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to waive reading in full of the 2020 Budget.

(Resolution in full on page 64A.)

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
 No – None
 Absent – None
 Abstain – None
 Resolution adopted.

(2020 Budget in full on pages 55A through 55ZZZ
 of Regular Mayor and Council Meeting held April 1, 2020.)

9. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public on the 2020 Budget. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
10. Mayor Romeo said CFO Laufeld worked very hard on this budget. We did not trim as much as we would have liked in anticipation of a drop in revenue. Due to the current situation with the pandemic, some people may have trouble paying their taxes. Our surplus did go up and all departments came in under budget.

No one else wished to be heard.

11. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to close the public hearing.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
 No – None
 Absent – None
 Abstain – None
 Motion adopted.

12. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to adopt the 2020 Budget.

(Resolution in full on pages 65A through 65B.)

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
 No – None
 Absent – None
 Abstain – None
 Resolution adopted.

13. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to resume the regular order of business.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Mueller, Olmo, Savas, Spina
 No – None
 Absent – None
 Abstain – None
 Motion adopted.

14. Borough Clerk Maragliano explained all items on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

*Resolutions

15. WHEREAS, the Council introduced and adopted Ordinance No. 20-03-1553 entitled “Street Openings” on April 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Ordinance directs the Council to establish application fees through Resolution to avoid the annual amendment of the Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby establish the “Street Opening” fees, effective *nun pro tunc* to the date of the Ordinance’s adoption.

Specifically:

1. Street Opening Application - \$200.00 per street

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Certified to be True Copy of this Resolution be Served upon to Building Department; Department of Public Works; Borough Engineer and Office of the Borough Clerk

16. RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR
SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAX TO CONCLUDE JUNE 1, 2020

WHEREAS, in response to financial hardships created from COVID-19, Municipalities throughout the State unilaterally adopted procedures pertaining to the collecting of delinquent taxes and chargeable statutory interest rates; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130, which states that no Municipality shall enact or enforce any Resolution in an attempt to otherwise temporarily fix, reduce, or retroactively modify the rate of interest on delinquent property taxes charged for failure to make timely payment; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 130 authorizes a Municipality with the 2020 calendar year budget cycle to adopt a Resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, property tax payments received after June 1, 2020 will be subject to an interest penalty calculated from May 1, 2020 as currently required.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of Cresskill does hereby institute a property tax grace period concluding June 1, 2020 for the payment of 2020 second-quarter property taxes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk will transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs and the Tax Collector-Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file in the Municipal Clerk Office, the Office of the Borough Administrator and Borough Attorney.

17. BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill that the following employees be approved for part time seasonal help as Laborers in the Public Works Department at a salary of \$13.50 per hour.

Stephen Bruttomesso– effective May 4, 2020

Daniel Vitellaro – effective May 11, 2020

18. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL TAX
COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994, C.72

WHEREAS, due to the County Board of Taxation unable to certify a tax rate due to various issues at the state level and the Municipal Tax Collector will be unable to mail the tax bills on a timely basis, it has become necessary to issue estimated tax bills for the 3rd quarter of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Tax Collector, in consultation with the Municipal Chief Financial Officer, has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-

66.3, and they have signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated levies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey on the 6th day of May 2020 as follows:

1. The Borough of Cresskill Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Borough for the third installment of 2020 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as necessary.
 2. The entire estimated levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$52,431,307.00 for an estimated tax rate of \$ 2.431.
 3. In accordance with law the third installment of 2020 shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10, 2020. Any payment received after August 10, 2020 shall have interest calculated from August 1, 2020.
19. BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council, Borough of Cresskill, that the following April/May 2020 payroll be ratified and approved:

April 24, 2020

Current Fund	\$ 286,625.06
Social Security/Medicare	12,715.52
Community Center	1,854.38
Library	<u>11,532.35</u>
	\$ 312,727.31

May 8, 2020

Current Fund	\$ 291,551.94
Social Security/Medicare	12,791.72
Community Center	1,854.38
Library	11,848.64
Swim Pool	<u>807.38</u>
	\$ 318,854.06

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE CONSENT AGENDA ONLY [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]

20. No one wished to be heard.
21. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to close the meeting to remarks on agenda items.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

22. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to consider all items marked with an asterisk as a single question.

On the question: The Borough Clerk announced that copies of all items marked with an asterisk have been posted in the Borough Hall and made available to the public.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

23. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to adopt all items with an asterisk as a single question.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

24. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas:

(Resolution in full on pages 68A through 68G.)

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Resolution adopted.

REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE BOROUGH
[Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]

25. Ed Wrixon, 168 9th Street said we're hearing about the great job the first responders are doing but it goes deeper than that. It's all Borough employees, the office staff, the DPW and the support we get from the Mayor & Council. Without your help the rest of us would not be able to do our job.

Council Member Kaplan thanked Chief Wrixon for the great job he did ensuring safe compliance with various establishments.

Mayor Romeo thanked CFO Laufeld for the great job he did with the budget.

Mayor Romeo said we've had 101 residents affected with Covid as of yesterday. Luckily the numbers are slowing down and we can go on with our normal lives soon. Chief Wrixon said in the last 5 days, Cresskill's had 3 new cases all in Care One, so our community has been 5 days clear with no new cases. Council Member Spina asked if there's a way to track the people who have recovered. Council Member Olmo said we get the number of the cases of those infected and passed away, but currently there's no reporting to the County or our local Board of Health of the recoveries. Chief Wrixon said according to the Prosecutor's office from the day someone gets the virus they go into the system and remain there for 45 days. They started taking some names off before the 45 days and then put them back on, so we were seeing repeats. I'm expecting to see a lot of names removed soon. Also, we'll never know the true number of cases because people who thought they just had a bug could have had Covid. Council Member Kaplan asked if there was anyone not cured. Chief Wrixon said we've lost 4 people.

Council Member Kaplan asked if we can have someone at the recycling center so that we can reopen it. Council Member Olmo said it's still closed to protect our workers from having contact with people. We can't let them in on their own because they throw all sorts of items that don't belong causing own men more work.

No one else wished to be heard.

26. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to close the meeting to remarks from the public.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

27. Motion at 7:57 P.M. by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Benedict Romeo
Mayor

Francesca Maragliano
Borough Clerk