

BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CRESSKILL

BERGEN COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2024

1. Simone Tsigounis 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 7:04 P.M.
4. Present: Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
Also Present: Attorney Diktas, Administrator Lavin, Chief Domville, Chief Ulshoefer
Absent: Council Member Kaplan
5. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Sine Die and Annual Meetings of January 3, 2024.

All in Favor. None Opposed.

Motion adopted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

6. Council Member Spina said the BOH newsletter will be coming out soon. They are looking at having babysitting training by the Red Cross at the Community Center in the Spring.

Council Member Olmo thanked the departments for their work through the snowstorm.

Council Member Schultz-Rummel said the BOE held their reorganization meeting earlier this month.

Council Member Savas said the library construction is on target for completion in March.

Council Member Savas said the Police Committee, after conducting interviews and based on recommendations by the professional police promotion entity, MTP Group, LLC, recommends to Mayor Romeo that he appoint Raymond Coleman and John Birnie to the rank of Lieutenant.

Council Member McLaughlin recused himself as he is a retired Cresskill Police Officer. Attorney Diktas agreed.

Mayor Romeo appointed Raymond Coleman and John Birnie to the rank of Lieutenant effective immediately.

Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Schultz-Rummel:

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina

No - None

Absent – Council Member Kaplan

Recuse – Council Member McLaughlin

Motion adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE ON FINAL READING

Ordinance No. 24-01-1637 – An Ordinance to Fix the Salaries, Wages and Compensation for the Police P.B.A. Local #180.

7. Motion at 7:09 PM by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to hear Ordinance No. 24-01-1637 on final reading by title only, An Ordinance to Fix the Salaries, Wages and Compensation for the Police P.B.A. Local #180.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Motion adopted.

(Ordinance in full on pages 5A through 5B in Minutes of Annual Mayor and Council Meeting held January 3, 2024.)

8. The Borough Clerk announced the Ordinance was published in The Record on January 5, 2024, posted in Borough Hall, and copies made available to the public.
9. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
10. No one 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 McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Motion adopted.

12. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Schultz-Rummel:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Ordinance No. 24-01-1637, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES AND
 COMPENSATION FOR THE POLICE P.B.A. LOCAL #180
 OF THE BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL

pass its second and final reading, is hereby adopted and shall be published according to law.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Resolution adopted.

Ordinance No. 24-02-1638 – An Ordinance to Fix the Salaries, Wages and Compensation for the Fire Department IAFF Local 4896.

13. Motion at 7:10 PM by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to hear Ordinance No. 24-02-1638 on final reading by title only, An Ordinance to Fix the Salaries, Wages and Compensation for the Fire Department of the Borough of Cresskill.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Motion adopted.

(Ordinance in full on pages 5C through 5E in Minutes of Annual
 Mayor and Council Meeting held January 3, 2024.)

14. The Borough Clerk announced the Ordinance was published in The Record on January 5, 2024, posted in Borough Hall, and copies made available to the public.
15. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
16. No one wished to be heard.
17. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to close the public hearing.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Motion adopted.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Ordinance No. 24-02-1638, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES AND
 COMPENSATION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
 OF THE BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL

pass its second and final reading, is hereby adopted and shall be published according to law.

Roll Call: Yes – Council Members McLaughlin, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel, Spina
 No - None
 Absent – Council Member Kaplan
 Abstain - None
 Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Repurposing the 2022 Grant Award for Third Street Recreational Complex Pickleball Court, Walkway & Benches.

19. Motion at 7:11 PM by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to open the public hearing for the submission of Repurposing the 2022 Grant Award for Third Street Recreational Complex Pickleball Court, Walkway & Benches in the amount of \$75,000.00.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

20. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
21. No one wished to be heard.

22. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to close the public hearing for the submission of Repurposing the 2022 Grant Award for Third Street Recreational Complex Pickleball Court, Walkway & Benches in the amount of \$75,000.00.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

*Resolutions

24. WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee has scheduled various programs; and

WHEREAS, the following participants were unable to attend;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the recreation fee be returned to:

Fatma Orsun
(for: Fatma Orsun & Vildan Alacatag)
622 Washington Avenue
Dumont, NJ 07628
Amount: \$216.00

25. WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“County Trust Fund”), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of municipal recreation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Cresskill desired to further the public interest by obtaining a grant of \$75,000 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: Third Street Recreational Complex (Block 39 Lot 21) to construct a pickleball court facility including sports lighting system for the same. The project shall include several ancillary improvements such as a walkway access, bench seating, fencing and miscellaneous landscape improvements and,

WHEREAS, The Borough of Cresskill is requesting an amendment to its project contract with the County of Bergen, Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund under the 2022 Municipal Program - Park Improvement Program, to reflect a new project entitled Crestron Field Multi-Court Pickleball Facility.

WHEREAS, that the Borough of Cresskill’s proposed amendment which shall include an alternate location and increased number of playing surfaces contained within the proposed Court Facility; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the 2022 Application, a single court, a walkway connection and bench seating was to be constructed within the Third Street Recreational Complex, situated approximately 100 feet south of the existing Basketball Court. The Borough has received a grant award of \$75,000.00 for this project; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to this 2024 amendment, the Borough now proposes to re-allocate its \$75,000.00 grant award in order to construct a battery of courts, containing 3 (three) recreational play level Pickleball Courts. Said facility shall be relocated from the originally proposed location at Third Street to an alternate location along Piermont Road on lands identified on the current Tax Assessment Map as Block 73.01 Lot 46.01 (#184 Piermont Road) and Block 73.01 – Lot 46 / Block 176 – Lot 89 (#190 Piermont Road).

The subject parcel is bounded by the Crestron Field Parking Lot / Detention Basin facility to the north and #178 Piermont Road (Samdan Restaurant) to the south.

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2024 to receive public comments prior to the submission of said application; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Cresskill is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project expiration date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill:

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the amended application as established by the County; and
 2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Borough of Cresskill has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
 3. That the Borough of Cresskill is committed to providing a dollar-for-dollar cash match for the project; and
 4. That the Borough of Cresskill agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.
26. WHEREAS, a Sewer Extension Agreement was signed between the Borough of Cresskill and the Borough of Alpine and Rio Vista Associates, Inc. on August 25, 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Utilities Authority increased its maintenance and operation charges to the Borough of Cresskill; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 7 of the above mentioned contract states as follows:

“In the event the Borough of Cresskill determines that the costs for such operation, maintenance, repair or replacement exceed the amount contemplated when the fees for the current year were set, the Borough of Cresskill, in its sole discretion may incur such costs and charge them to the benefited homeowners in the Borough of Alpine either as an assessment or may add the cost to the current fees in which event the Borough of Cresskill shall have a lien for such additional costs upon the property served until such charge is paid”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the Cresskill-Alpine-Rio Vista Associates, Inc. Sewer Extension Agreement, Paragraph 7, the maintenance fee to be charged to the residents of Alpine is increased from a yearly sum of \$1,300.00 per residential dwelling to \$1,500.00 per residential dwelling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Paragraph 10 of the Agreement, the increased charge to the residents of Alpine shall become effective January 1, 2024.

27. WHEREAS, the property located at 30 Buckingham Road, also known as Block 206, Lot 11 has been redeemed. The Tax Collector has received (1) one check in the amount of \$93,131.41 for payment of the lien Certificate No. 18-00007; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is holding a \$23,800.00 premium in a Trust Account for the above mentioned lien.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue one (1) municipal check in the amount of \$116,931.41 to be paid to:

Rothman Realty I, LLC
411 Grand Avenue
Englewood, NJ 07631

28. WHEREAS, the contract with the Borough of Cresskill and the Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) with the Department of Public Works Employees expired on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough officials and the representatives of the Department of Public Works Employees have met and engaged in ongoing negotiations for the terms and provisions to be contained in the CBA; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Agreement has been presented, which has been accepted by the Department of Public Works Employees, subject to Acceptance by the Municipality and Execution by Mayor Benedict Romeo; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Impact of the Memorandum of Agreement has been reviewed by the Finance Committee, who are of the opinion that the Municipality has adequate finances to enter into this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council does hereby accept the negotiated recommendations presented and does hereby Authorize Mayor Benedict Romeo to execute the Memorandum of Agreement confirming same, subject to the inclusion of the Amended Financial Terms into the revised Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified to be true copy of this Resolution be tendered to the Department of Public Works Employees, Dianne Lavin, Acting CFO, Borough Attorney Christos J. Diktas, Francesca Maragliano, Borough Clerk.

29. WHEREAS, David Laganis has applied for a Limo/Taxi Owner’s License and has paid the required fees; and

WHEREAS, the vehicle has been inspected and approved by Chief James Domville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the license be authorized for term ending December 31, 2024 subject to requirements of Chapter 246 of the Code of the Borough of Cresskill.

License No. 24-440
2018 Chevy Suburban
Vin # 1GNSKHKC7JR245374

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

30. No one wished to be heard.
31. 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.

- 32. 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.

- 33. 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

- 34. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas:

(Resolution in full on pages 24A through 24G.)

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.]

- 35. No one wished to be heard.

- 36. Motion at 7:15 P.M. by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to close the meeting and adjourn.

All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion adopted.

Benedict Romeo
 Mayor

Francesca Maragliano
 Borough Clerk