

BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CRESSKILL

BERGEN COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

1. Captain Luciano 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 7:13 P.M.
4. Present: Council Members Cleary, Kaplan, Olmo, Savas, Schultz-Rummel
Also Present: Attorney Diktas, Captain Luciano
Absent: Council Member Spina
5. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Cleary to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular meeting of February 1, 2023.

All in Favor. None Opposed.

Motion adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Minutes of the following meeting:

Planning Board

January 24, 2023

Filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

7. Council Member Savas said the Library is meeting tomorrow night and will approve the contract to begin renovations.

Council Member Schultz-Rummel said the Building Department was audited by the DCA and passed with flying colors. They were interested in how we are going to handle the new lead paint law. The Fire Department will be doing the inspections.

The Finance office will be sending out the delinquent tax notices next week, the senior freeze program is underway and filing for tax relief through the Anchor program ends the end of February.

Council Member Kaplan said the Garden Club has been meeting to plan their spring plantings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE ON FINAL READING

Ordinance No. 23-02-1603 – Amend Chapter 53-19 - Article III Police Department Organization

8. Motion at 7:16 PM by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Cleary to hear Ordinance No. 23-02-1603 on final reading by title only, An Ordinance

Amending Chapter 53-19 Police Department Composition of the Borough of Cresskill in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

(Ordinance in full on page 25A in Minutes of Regular Mayor and Council Meeting held February 1, 2023.)

9. The Borough Clerk announced the Ordinance was published in The Record on February 3, 2023, posted in Borough Hall, and copies made available to the public.
10. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
11. No one wished to be heard.
12. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to close the public hearing.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

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

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. 23-02-1603, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 53-19 POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMPOSITION OF THE BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL IN THE COUNTY OF
BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Resolution adopted.

Ordinance No. 23-03-1604 – Amend Chapter 140 Hawkers, Peddlers and Solicitors

14. Motion at 7:18 PM by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to hear Ordinance No. 23-03-1604 on final reading by title only, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 140 Hawkers, Peddlers and Solicitors Borough of Cresskill in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

(Ordinance in full on pages 26A through 26J in Minutes of Regular Mayor and Council Meeting held February 1, 2023.)

15. The Borough Clerk announced the Ordinance was published in The Record on February 3, 2023, posted in Borough Hall, and copies made available to the public.
16. Mayor Romeo opened the meeting to the public. [Reported by Deputy Borough Clerk Patricia A. McKim.]
17. No one wished to be heard.
18. Motion by Council Member Savas and seconded by Council Member Olmo to close the public hearing.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

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

*Resolutions

27. WHEREAS, application # 1585 was submitted to the Planning Board for construction located at 266 Concord Street and the application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) was paid; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the application for 266 Concord Street should be heard by the Zoning Board instead of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board application fee of thirty (\$30.00) has been paid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Board application fee be refunded to:

Adam Pitt
143 Newcomb Road
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Amount: \$200.00

28. WHEREAS, the Building Department and Clerks office both have a need for additional help; and

WHEREAS, the position was advertised and interviews were conducted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, that Linda Zicarelli be approved for full-time employment as an Administrative Assistant between the Building Dept. and the Borough Clerk's office, effective February 23, 2023, at an annual salary of \$45,000.00.

29. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE NORTHERN VALLEY GREENWAY INITIATIVE AND INTERLOCAL NORTHERN VALLEY GREENWAY PLANING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the six Northern Valley towns of Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, Northvale, Norwood and Tenafly are home to approximately eight miles of a continuous and underutilized segment of the former Erie Lackawanna, now CSX Northern Branch; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 the Erie Railroad terminated its commuter passenger service, and diminished operational and maintenance responsibilities along said corridor; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of Erie Lackawanna and Penn Central into Conrail in 1976, the Northern Branch fell under the control of Conrail and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970's freight service to New York State was discontinued after Continental Can Company in Piermont closed, and

WHEREAS, after the breakup of Conrail in 1999 the Northern Branch was divided and CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) was given the northern section; and

WHEREAS, after many studies and impact statements regarding the use of light rail north to Tenafly and Cresskill, it was decided in 2013 to have the terminus station at the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, with necessary rail infrastructure extending just past the southern border of Tenafly; and

WHEREAS, freight rail service provided by CSX has been partially and fully discontinued within the borders of the six Northern Valley Towns as evidenced by removal of track, ties, signals and at grade crossing equipment, the loss of shippers, and an increase of neglect; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Northern Valley Green Way will link up at the New York State line in the town of Orangetown with the Joseph B. Clarke Rail-Trail as a segment of the Hudson River Valley Greenway system. The Joseph B. Clarke Rail-Trail also links to the Piermont, South Nyack, and Nyack River trails, and connects Sparkill Park, The Piermont Erie Railroad Pier, Tallman State Park, Bike Route 9, and via the bike and walk path of the Mario Cuomo

Bridge will enable access to New York State's extensive network of non-motorized transportation and recreational networks on the eastern side of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the corridor forms a superior connection between and among the communities to this cooperative effort, and enhances the linkage of residential communities, commercial and business sites, schools, civic, institutional and recreational lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors and Councils of the six Northern Valley Towns passed appropriate resolutions in early 2017 to authorize the Northern Valley rail-trail project and the formation of an Inter-local "GREEN WAY" Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, other Northern Valley towns' Mayors and Councils have subsequently also passed similar resolutions of support for the Northern Valley Greenway (NVG) initiative; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs has sponsored and funded an official Technical Planning Assistance Study that did not identify any potential fatal flaws with the project's objectives; and

WHEREAS, the NVG Planning Committee has successfully established and developed working relationships with local, county, regional and state stakeholders, acquired letters of support from numerous state and federal elected officials and established strong public support for the project; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen has incorporated the Northern Valley Greenway as a visionary opportunity in the Bergen County Parks Master Plan and has been an active participant on the NVG Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the towns of the Northern Valley, along with the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and local organizations have been engaged with the Northern Valley Greenway Committee in the planning and evaluation of non-motorized interurban transportation alternatives and trail opportunities for community development, alternative modes of transportation, public health and public recreational access and these municipal and non-profit organizations have been working cooperatively on this proposal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill hereby declare that it is their intention to continue to work cooperatively with the other towns of the Northern Valley and other stakeholder organizations in supporting the efforts of the Northern Valley Greenway Planning Committee to pursue reuse of the corridor as a "Green Way": to accommodate non-motorized, public access facility for recreation and transportation use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill intend to work cooperatively with the towns of the Northern Valley and other governmental, municipal and non-municipal stakeholders in the planning, design, grant-writing, and other activities necessary to advance corridor reuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill recognize the amount of work such an undertaking involves and as such hereby restate their agreement with and continued support of the Interlocal "Northern Valley Greenway Planning Committee", ("Committee"), whose official membership consists of mayoral appointees from the six Northern Valley towns and a representative of the County of Bergen. Each of the six towns and the County of Bergen will have an equal vote on committee actions and decisions with tie votes decided by the NVG Team Leader. The Committee may invite representatives of other stakeholder organizations to join the Committee. The Committee shall meet regularly, keep records, work with other stakeholders to develop a project work plan, host meetings and public events, work with stakeholders and serve as a forum for coordinating municipal, county, state, federal and regional agency activities. The Committee will be an advisory Committee to plan and coordinate the undertaking with the Borough Council maintaining responsibility to take any necessary action, expend any money, enter into any contract or incur any liability. The Committee shall not be authorized to enter into contracts, expend money, maintain a budget, approve expenditures, or incur any liability on behalf of the Borough. With Committee approval, the NVG Team Leader may sign memorandums of understandings to further the Committee's goals for investigation purposes within the restrictions mentioned elsewhere in this paragraph.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Cresskill recognizes that the County of Bergen is considering passing a supporting resolution and that the other towns in the Northern Valley are considering renewing their supporting resolutions and the Borough of Cresskill encourages those entities to do so and is willing to enter into a memorandum of understanding with those that pass such resolutions.

30. WHEREAS, the Police Department has Four (4) decommissioned Panasonic Toughbook laptops; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association does not receive any funding from the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association is in need of laptops to help better their organization; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill does hereby donate to the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association, located at 311 Centre Avenue, Secaucus, NJ 07094, Four (4) Decommissioned Panasonic Toughbook CF-31 Laptops.

31. 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 fees be returned to:

Jennifer Grubecki <i>(for: Lucas Holley)</i> 108 Brookside Avenue Cresskill, NJ 07626 Amount: \$200.00	Tina McCord <i>(for: Max McCord)</i> 320 Highland Street Cresskill, NJ 07626 Amount: \$200.00	Michael Reavis <i>(for: Marco Reavis-Vega)</i> 36 Magnolia Avenue Cresskill, NJ 07626 Amount: \$200.00
--	---	--

32. WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires that each municipality appoint a Certified Tax Collector pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-141; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey desire to appoint Ada Vassallo to the position of part-time Certified Tax Collector, for a term of 1 year effective February 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Ada Vassallo, as required by law, holds a New Jersey State certification and is willing to perform the duties of the Certified Tax Collector for the Borough of Cresskill for an annual salary of \$22,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Cresskill, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby appoint Ada Vassallo to perform all the duties of the Certified Tax Collector for the Borough of Cresskill for an annual salary of \$22,000.00 effective, February 16, 2023.

33. BE IT RESOLVED that the following solicitor's license, which has been approved by the Chief of Police, be issued under the provisions of Chapter 140 of the Code of the Borough of Cresskill for the term ending December 31, 2023:

Home Run Ice Cream
25 South Prospect Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
Purpose: Ice Cream Sales

#23-1047 – George A. Corbo

34. WHEREAS, Planning Board applications, soil permit applications and tree escrow were required for several properties; and

WHEREAS, escrow accounts were established for this work; and

WHEREAS, the work has been completed, inspected and ready to close out;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council, Borough of Cresskill, that the following refunds of Developer Escrow accounts be made:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DE-307	167	19.02	Louis Zimick 11 Sterling Place, Rear Edgewater, NJ 07020 <i>(for: 70 Park Avenue)</i>	\$ 1.95
DE-336	150.01	41.02	Lumaj Builders LLC 345 Rt. 17 South Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 <i>(for: 67 Phelps Avenue)</i>	\$ 2,000.00
DE-376	1.04	5	Harry McCormick 177 Blackburn Street Galloway, NJ 08205 <i>(for: 46 Heather Hill Road)</i>	\$ 981.00
DE-427	73.01	39	Sandal Builders 150 County Road Tenafly, NJ 07670 <i>(for: 31 Allen Street)</i>	\$ 19.90
DE-501	102	52	Brian Glantz 488 12 th Street Cresskill, NJ 07626	\$ 391.25
DE-504 & 507	75	21 & 22	Jameli Ferati 3 Greentree Terrace Tenafly, NJ 07670 <i>(for: 35 Westervelt Place)</i>	\$ 3,491.25
DE-382	28.01	4	62 Merritt LLC 655 Koch Peak Avenue Washington Twp. NJ 07676 <i>(for: 62 Merritt Avenue)</i>	\$ 0.00
DE-120	71	13	Millenium Health Care 221 County Road Cresskill, NJ 07626	\$56,754.25
DE-452	91.05	20	Elite Developers LLC 114 Essex Street #302 Hackensack, NJ 07662	\$ 55.55

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

35. No one wished to be heard.
36. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Cleary to close the meeting to remarks on agenda items.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

37. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Cleary 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.

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

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

39. Motion by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Savas to authorize the Borough Clerk to go out to bid on the Borough's IT networking proposal.

Roll Call: Yes – Unanimous Motion adopted.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

40. Resolution by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Cleary:

(Resolution in full on pages 39A through 39G.)

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.]

41. Alina Sadiqulla, 94 Jackson Drive spoke about Ramadan and Eid and the importance these occasions hold for Muslims.
Asim Sadiqulla, 94 Jackson Drive thanked the Mayor and Council for approving their request for the cultural crescent moon lighting. Mayor Romeo asked Mr. Sadiqulla what takes place during the crescent lighting. Mr. Sadiqulla said this year Ramadan begins on March 22 and at sunset they will begin to fast for the month which is when they will do the lighting ceremony at the library. We expect about 25 people to attend, and the decor will stay lit for 30 days.

No one else wished to be heard.

42. Motion at 7:23 P.M. by Council Member Olmo and seconded by Council Member Cleary to close the meeting and adjourn.

All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion adopted.

Benedict Romeo
Mayor

Francesca Maragliano
Borough Clerk