

53 Park Ave
Park Ridge, NJ

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
October 24, 2023
7: 02 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Hoffman, Councilmember Ferguson, Councilmember Goldsmith
Councilmember Cozzi, Councilmember Capilli, Council President Fenwick and Mayor
Misciagna

Absent:

Also Present: John Schettino, Borough Attorney
Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough Clerk
Connie Carpenter, Borough CFO
John Dunlea, Borough Engineer

Mayor Misciagna read the compliance statement earlier as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, and Chapter 231.

1. **The Borough Administrator** stated that the Tax Assessor found addons that can be back charged to peoples 2023 tax payment obligation or that the tax bills can incorporate the addons on the 2024 tax bill for a clean start. All in agreement to start clean in 2024. The Pistol Range Renewal 2024-2028 will have the new proposed rates: \$7,500 for 2024, \$8,500 for 2025 and \$9,500 for 2026, 2027 and 2028. We are looking to do renovations on the pistol range, the exact timing of that has not been solidified, but we would hold the price of that year of renovations and carry it over to once they are completed. The Borough Administrator will be reaching out to the participating towns. Discussion about 250 Park will be in closed.
 - a. **Snow Plowing:** The Borough Administrator stated that people are asking to be put on the “Waiver of obligation to remove snow and ice.” Borough Code 86-4.2 which states: A. An owner, tenant or occupant of land abutting a fire hydrant or sidewalk who is a senior citizen, disabled resident or who is otherwise incapable of removing snow or ice from an abutting sidewalk or fire hydrant may apply to the Borough Administrator for a waiver from the obligation to remove snow or ice from the sidewalk or fire hydrant. B. The Borough Administrator shall maintain a list of individuals who have requested a waiver of the obligation to remove snow and ice. Any resident who applies for a waiver shall be added to said list. The Borough Administrator shall make said list available to the Borough Fire Department and the Borough Police Department. C. No person who has requested a waiver from the obligation to remove snow or ice from a sidewalk or fire hydrant shall be required to pay a fine for failing to do so.

- i. A discussion ensued. Council President Fenwick stated that as written we do don't have a choice and should look into changing the ordinance. Councilmember Capilli suggested reaching out to the schools if kids are looking for volunteer hours and to look into what Montvale does with "snow angles".
2. **CFO:** The Borough CFO discussed the 2023 Best Practice and how we got a 41 so we will maintain our full state aid allocation. The audit and corrective action plan are online and the CFO would like to meet with the personnel committee to discuss a pay increase.
3. **Pool Fess:** Councilman Ferguson stated that senior out of town get a discounted pool membership rate and he would like to our first responders to receive free pool membership, it would be a nice gesture and help entice volunteers to join. the borough can change the code to allow for free membership. Councilmember Capilli stated it should be volunteers, not first responders since the volunteer their time. Borough Attorney Schettino stated that we should see how many actual members of the pool are now to see what the impact on usage would be.
4. **Shade Tree:** Council President Fenwick stated that residents are complaining on the lower portion of Ridge Ave., that trees are growing around power lines and they are concerned. Councilmember Capilli stated the same on some portions of Park Ave. Council President Fenwick asked if the electric utility company checks the trees to see if they are obstructing the power lines and Mayor Misciagna stated that they check and address it accordingly. Council President Fenwick said that if a tree comes down because of obstruction it should not be replaced to avoid the same occurrence later. The governing body would like the utility to check the trees on the lower portion of Ridge and on Park Ave for any obstruction to the power lines.

Open Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 7:31 pm

Council President Fenwick made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Councilman Cozzi to confirm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough Clerk