

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2019

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to our official newspapers and other publications circulated in the Borough of Old Tappan, and notice posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

Please note fire exits located at the main entrance to the Council Chambers and in the rear of the Council Chambers.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor John Kramer	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Victor Cioce	Absent
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilwoman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present: Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
 Borough Attorney Allen Bell

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman Matthew Nalbandian

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Kathy Fable, Stewart Court, former school board member asked the Mayor and Council to consider supporting to move the school board elections from November to April in an attempt to bring more visibility and awareness to budget activities. Other towns are considering the move. The Mayor and Council would like to review the school board audit and gather more information prior to making a decision.

Alfonso Ferrara, Washington Avenue, reported that he still has not received a certificate of occupancy for a house he built four years ago. Mr. Ferrara had a revised plan and was told that he was to submit the plan to the Borough Engineer.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Anthony DiPasquale – Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO III)

Motion to accept the Mayor’s appointment – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher asked if a background check was done. He was told that the individual is a retired police officer.

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Nalbandian read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher asked that a copy of the Forfeiture of LOSAP Award be sent to the EMS captain.

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Borough Engineer Thomas Skrable reported via email:

NJDOT combining grants – assuming confirmation, the drainage work will be done on DeWolf Road and Howard Drive. Survey work is being done now. Oakes Park electric is complete. Stone Point Park work will begin in October.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – DPW / CONSTRUCTION

DPW Superintendent is on vacation. Will begin emptying the existing leaf pile. There could be some upcoming retirements. Mr. Boyer from Churchill Road complained about motorcycle and ATV use in his neighborhood and the neighbor that was doing work on their property. Borough Engineer Thomas Skrable looked into this and it appears the neighbor did more work than he should have and was supposed to submit a plan and did not; we still hold escrow money.

COUNCILMAN YHU – SAFETY / SENIORS / AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing – Councilman Yhu plans on reaching out to the young volunteers in town and surrounding areas advising them of opportunities available. Social Services – contacted the Division of Mental Health to find ways to strengthen our Stigma Free program and mental health in Old Tappan. Councilman Yhu has been working with an organization to raise awareness of substance abuse and addiction. Alumni in Recovery will have a walk on October 27th at Westvale Park in Westwood; Councilman Yhu plans to attend.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – PLANNING / ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / FIRST AID

Concert Series this summer were a success; he thanked all who assisted with the event. Planning Board – the Pearson application hearing will begin in October. The EMS are finalizing specifications for a new ambulance. Councilman Gallagher forwarded the Blue Light safety information to the EMS Captain and Fire Chief. EMS is working with River Vale on mixed crews as a pilot program. The Fire Officers met last month and send their appreciation to Councilman Nalbandian since he worked with them for the past year on certain issues. We discussed a possible ordinance change affecting Fire Chief residency. They had an increase in vehicle maintenance. Twenty-three calls in the month of July.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION / GOLF / HEALTH

Recreation summer basketball had eleven teams; five in the finals; two won the championships. Eighty-two have signed up for girls' softball. Board of Health – Northwest Bergen will be in Old Tappan for two days for water testing; residents can pick up kits and drop off samples. Golf Commission – increase in funds this year on registrations and play.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – FINANCE / FIRE / SCHOOLS / ADMINISTRATION

Police negotiations are on-going with their contract. Our new Administrator is working out well.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

We are close to winding up police contract negotiations. He participated in a telephone conference call with Standard and Poor’s along with Borough Administrator Haverilla, Chief Financial Officer Overgaard, and Borough Auditor Bliss. At the conclusion we were told that we should continue to be AAA rated.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Nalbandian made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, July 15, 2019
- Regular Meeting, July 15, 2019
- Closed Meeting, August 14, 2019

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

Roll Call:	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Off-Road Vehicles

Brief discussion ensued. Borough Attorney Allen Bell commented that it is hard to regulate off-road vehicles.

CDL & Non-CDL Drug Testing Policies

Brief discussion ensued. The matter will be placed on the next agenda.

Intersection at Old Tappan and Orangeburg Roads (added by Councilman Binaghi)

Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla advised that she has attempted, but has not received, a response from the homeowner regarding removal or trimming of trees. Borough Engineer Skrable will be asked to send a letter to the homeowner and neighboring homeowners.

Discussion ensued on moving a stop sign in the area to a better position and having the road grooved. Either way it has to be done by the County.

NEW BUSINESS

Construction Department Ordinances

Robert Rusch, Zoning Officer, provided the Mayor and Council with a list of ordinances that should be reviewed for possible amendments. He referred to some of the ordinances and provided a reason why they should be revised. Borough Attorney Allen Bell will review.

Field Fee Waiver Request – Northern Valley Cheerleaders

Motion to approve the request – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Kathy Fable, regarding the school board elections discussed earlier, advised that no vote has been taken by other towns yet; there will be discussion at the Northern Valley Mayor’s meeting.

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Kokowski, Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor and Council
Allen Bell, Esq.

Reviewed and approved:

Jean M. Donch
Borough Clerk

Date Approved: September 16, 2019