

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL SINE DIE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
FIRST HALF**

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: 7:00 PM

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| ROLL CALL: | Mayor John Kramer | Present |
| | Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr. | Present |
| | Councilman William Boyce | Present |
| | Councilman Guy Carnazza | Present |
| | Councilman Thomas Gallagher | Present |
| | Councilman Matthew Nalbandian | Absent |
| | Councilman Jin Yhu | Present (via phone) |

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Also Present: | Borough Attorney Brian Giblin |
| | Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch |

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER - Councilman Thomas Gallagher

PUBLICS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion - None

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Gallagher read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----|
| Roll Call | Councilman Binaghi | Yes |
| | Councilman Boyce | Yes |
| | Councilman Carnazza | Yes |
| | Councilman Gallagher | Yes |
| | Councilman Yhu | Yes |

ACTION ON MINUTES

Minutes to be Approved

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, December 7, 2020
- Regular & Executive Meetings, December 7, 2020

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-----|
| Roll Call | Councilman Binaghi | Yes |
| | Councilman Boyce | Yes |
| | Councilman Carnazza | Yes |
| | Councilman Gallagher | Yes |
| | Councilman Yhu | Yes |

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION / HEALTH

He thanked the Borough employees and Mayor and Council for their dedication in this terrible year. He thanked the Recreation Commission and Board of Health for all their hard work. Hopefully this new year will bring a lot more good things to Old Tappan.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE / AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This has been a year like no other. He thanked the residents for electing him to another term. This is his 8th term on the Council. It has been such an interesting job that he has come to love. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the job they do. He knows they are all here because they care. He appreciates that they respect each other's opinions, even if they do not always agree. He is glad that they are able to keep politics out of their deliberations and away from this dais.

He spoke of the retirements and new hires such as former Borough Attorney Allen Bell and welcomed his replacement, Brian Giblin, who stepped right in and has done a great job. We also said goodbye to Police Chief Thomas Shine who was on the department for 41 years and chief for 9 years. We then welcomed Police Chief Joseph Tracy who continues to operate the department at the highest level that we have been accustomed. Borough Administrator Patrick O'Brien also retired in 2020 and former Councilwoman Anna Haverilla was hired as his replacement. Knowing that we can change department heads and not have any kind of learning curve is a source of pride for the Mayor and Council.

He served as Police Commissioner, working side by side with Chief Tracy, who has been a police officer for over 35 years. Chief Tracy, especially during COVID, has been a firm and steady hand. This year brought retirements, promotions and new hires. He then read the 2020 police report.

This past year Councilman Nalbandian has gone above and beyond his work with the PBA contract negotiations. He is relentless in his quest to be fair to both sides.

He thanked Mayor Kramer for his leadership and being such a good example for all of us.

COUNCILMAN YHU – SCHOOLS / SENIORS

He wished his Borough family a happy new year. He congratulated Councilmen Binaghi and Gallagher on their re-election. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their guidance this year and his family for all their support. He complimented the entire Borough staff and volunteers for a job well done during very difficult times.

This was an especially rough year for the Borough's senior citizens with all of their social activities being put on hold. They all remain in good spirits.

The food pantry was active this year and never had a shortage of donations. He commended the efforts of the Local Assistance Board. Although the Library was closed for most of the year they offered curb side pickup, weekly project emails and reading lists.

This year has also been rough on the students in town. Dealing with the Board of Education was a learning experience but he believes they did the best they could during these difficult times. We have been recognized as one of the best school districts in the state.

He commended the Technology Committee for getting many things done this year during the pandemic. The phone and computer systems were upgraded. A resident email contact list was

created. The Facebook page is being updated in a timely manner with important information. A new Borough website was also built.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF / PLANNING BOARD / ENVIRONMENTAL

This past year we have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic together as a resilient community. This invisible threat has shaped our decisions and made us contemplate everything. Everything is uncertain in the world right now and Old Tappan is no exception. He thanked the Borough staff, professionals and committee chair people for their dedication and patience during his first year of service. He is so impressed at every meeting with everyone's depth of knowledge and history about what happens here in Old Tappan. He thanked Mayor Kramer for his unwavering leadership.

His committee's this year were the Planning Board, Environmental Commission, Golf Commission, Veterans, Boy & Girl Scouts. COVID forced the Planning Board to re-examine the way they take in applications. At first the meetings were held via Zoom and now there is a limited 5-member board, making it available to residents and developers. One of the largest projects in years, the Pearson project, was approved and will hopefully break ground in 2021.

He thanked the Environmental Commission and most especially Dave Keil and Bill Howe for their stewardship of Old Tappan's natural resources. Meetings were conducted via Zoom this year.

The Golf Commission put in place many types of memberships and the golf course staff kept the course in excellent condition. Once allowed to reopen, the golf course membership increased. A new course improvement plan is being undertaken. We want to build on the success we have had. Dan Morro was honored by the Mayor and Council this year with a lifetime membership. He served as the chairman of the Golf Commission for at least 25 years.

The Boy Scouts saw 4 scouts become Eagle Scouts and the Girl Scouts have been focusing on community support efforts.

Mr. Simpson, a 92-year-old World War II veteran, was finally presented with his service medals. Alex Podoia, a local Boy Scout, joined Seton Hall's ROTC program.

He feels privileged to serve during this challenging time.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE / FIRE / FIRST AID

He congratulated Councilman Binaghi on his re-election and thanked Mayor Kramer and his fellow Council Members for their hard work on behalf of the residents. He thanked the residents for allowing him to serve and work with some of the best professionals, Borough staff and volunteers. He thanked his family for their support over the years.

This year has been a challenge to all both professionally and personally. Mental health related incidents are way up. He asked everyone to pay a little but more attention to family members, friends, coworkers and neighbors.

He had the pleasure to work with the First Aid Corps and Fire Department volunteers this past year. These two groups continued with their invaluable work under the most extreme conditions. He gave highlights of both organizations over 2020.

The Borough Hall staff kept the business of Old Tappan moving forward. The Mayor and Council did not raise the municipal portion of property taxes in 2020. He challenged the county and local school boards to follow our lead of fiscal responsibility.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor offered his congratulations to Councilmen Binaghi and Gallagher on their re-election. Both are valued members.

2020 was a year we will never forget. Nearly a year's long pandemic with 201 recorded COVID-19 cases in Old Tappan to date. Sadly, this includes five deaths. All of our lives have been affected in one way or another. The Borough's operations were considerably impacted. Police, DPW and Borough Hall staff were placed on split shifts with the Borough Hall being closed to the public for a period of time. Unfortunately, so many of our community events were canceled. Nevertheless, the Borough government continued to operate in an effective and responsible manner. Our Borough Auditor reported that our year end finances are on target and we are financially healthy. He listed improvement projects that were completed throughout the year.

Borough personnel retirements have been many. He wished them all a happy and healthy retirement. We continue our efforts to hire high caliber replacements that compliment our work force. He thanked all employees, both past and present, Council Members, board members and volunteers that make our community great. He is proud to say that he is the Mayor of Old Tappan. He wished all a happy and healthy new year.

OLD BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLICS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second - Councilman Gallagher

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: January 19, 2021