

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
August 15, 2022**

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 William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Absent
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present:	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin, Jr.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open 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 close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 1221-22 – Amend Soil Moving Permit Application – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Yhu described the ordinance and made a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Yhu read the resolution

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Nalbandian read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Boyce asked if the GIS mapping system is expandable to things other than the sewer system.

Mrs. Haverilla answered yes, the DPW Superintendent is eventually looking to have everything for the Borough in the system.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Golf Course is about to open up memberships for the 2023 season.

The Environmental Commission will be discussing the tree ordinance at their meeting tomorrow.

The Planning Board heard the 244 Old Tappan Road application at their last meeting.

Hoping to meet with the Veterans and would like the Mayor's help in setting it up so they can be shown the monument renderings. We might be able to have the monument and labor donated.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

Read an email from the CFO explaining why the emergency resolution for utilities needed to be adopted this evening. The accounts for both gas and water have been depleted due to increased gas prices and the drought. This was done at the Borough Auditor's recommendation. This will all have to be kept in mind for the 2023 budget.

COUNCILMAN YHU – DPW/CONSTRUCTION/FIRST AID

The Seniors have several activities coming up. There is a Lunch and Learn on September 29th, International Luncheon on October 27th and the Christmas Luncheon on December 15th. Beginning on October 3rd every Monday for 8 weeks a free balance class will be offered by the county.

The First Aid Corps has approximately 75-80 calls per month. Several members have returned to college for the year so they are a little stretched now.

Councilman Gallagher asked him to read his report:

Read the August 2022 Police Activity Report.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH

Both the Movie Night and Town Day were big successes with great turn outs. We hope to continue with the Movie Night next year.

Spoke about the increase in medical benefits that was just voted on by the state. He will be looking into other plans to try and save the Borough some money.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the MEL is having a webinar for the towns that are choosing to move away from the State Health Benefits Plan.

Discussion ensued on the various options available to the employees.

All were in favor of Councilman Carnazza researching other health plans.

COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN - FIRE/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

The Fire Inspection Dinner is on September 30th.

September is Library Card Signup Month. Old Tappan students that signup for a card are eligible for a Kindle.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Received a letter today from Boswell Engineering in regard to the bridge at Old Tappan Road and River Vale Road. The bridge is slated for replacement and the area will be closed down for several months.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Nalbandian made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, August 15, 2022
- Closed Meeting, September 6, 2022
- Regular & Executive Meetings, September 6, 2022

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Nalbandian abstained on the August 15, 2022 minutes.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Tree Ordinance Amendments

Councilman Boyce explained that he had a meeting with Councilmen Nalbandian and Binaghi to go over the proposed tree ordinance amendments. He reviewed the proposed changes including what tree varieties should be planted in town, side and rear yard buffers, new residential construction, heritage trees, defining biodiversity and tree removal permits.

Councilman Boyce explained that there is a problem in town because developers will buy a piece of property and knock down all of the trees which changes the ecosystem within neighborhoods and makes the residents very unhappy. These lots are left fallow sometimes for years.

Councilman Nalbandian feels that a distinction needs to be made between homeowners and

developers. Perhaps put a timeframe on when the trees can be cut down so the lots don't stay barren for too long. We should strive to protect homeowners but at the same time homeowners should be allowed to do what they want with their trees.

Councilman Boyce would like to continue to work on this ordinance with the Environmental Commission, review the proposed changes with the Borough Attorney and then bring it back to the Mayor and Council for a last look.

NEW BUSINESS

NVPAL Northern Valley Eagles Cheerleaders Field Usage

Councilman Carnazza explained that the NVPAL Cheerleaders were issued a permit so they can practice and cheer at Stone Point Park. They will be using the pavilion and basketball court. This would be a waiver of the \$250 fee that would normally be charged. They have over 50% Old Tappan residents on the squad. The Recreation Commission recommends waiving the fee as has been done over the last 10 years for them.

Councilman Carnazza made a motion to waive the \$250.00 field usage fee.

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Councilman Yhu would like the Borough Attorney to speak about the Internal Affairs investigation at the Police Department.

Mr. Giblin explained that the Police Chief issued charges to a member of the department a few weeks ago. The involved officer has decided to challenge the charges so this will go to a hearing and he is recommending that a hearing officer be hired. He suggests hiring retired Judge Harry Carroll. He put a resolution together that would cap the expenditures at \$5,000.00

Councilman Yhu read the resolution to retain a hearing officer.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes

Councilman Carnazza	Yes
Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: October 17, 2022