

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL SPECIAL & EXECUTIVE MEETING
March 4, 2024**

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.

All meetings are videotaped and posted on the website.

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

REGULAR MEETING

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

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Cort Gwon	Present
	Councilwoman Christine Massaro	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Part Time/Temporary Building Department Technical Assistant - Tracy Keenan

Motion to accept the appointment – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gwon	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Municipal Court Sound Recording Secretary - Dawn Congiusti

Motion to accept the appointments – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gwon	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance 1248-24 – Tree Preservation and Removal – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Boyce 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 Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion - Mr. Giblin explained that there were some minor changes, not substantive, made to this ordinance but it can still be adopted tonight.

Mayor Gallagher explained that this ordinance was reviewed and approved by many different Borough Officials and boards.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
-----------	--------------------	-----

Councilman Boyce	Yes
Councilman Carnazza	Yes
Councilman Gwon	Yes
Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

Ordinance 1249-24 – Amend LOSAP Ordinance - Fire Department – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Yhu explained that there are some amendments that need to be made to the ordinance and they are substantive so he would like to table until a future meeting.

Motion to table the ordinance – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gwon	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Yhu read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Binaghi asked for some clarification on the cell tower leases.

Mr. Giblin explained that there is a lease that is expiring in just over a year so we are required to go out to bid for the lease.

Councilman Yhu explained the resolution adopted this evening in regard to COAH. Many other towns in New Jersey are adopting similar resolutions.

Discussion ensued on the potential new COAH rules and regulations.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes*
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gwon	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes*

*Councilmen Binaghi and Yhu abstained on the Certification of LOSAP Lists resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

First Aid Corps

Councilman Yhu explained that there are ongoing discussions on our ambulance services and how we want to provide the services that our residents expect and deserve. We received 2 proposals today from Hackensack Hospital and Holy Name Hospital. He described what each proposal contains. These proposals will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for review. Invited the First Aid Corps members present to give their views.

OTFAC Chief, Jesse Hopfer, spoke in regard to their budget request for paid EMTs. He understands that the dollar amount proposed is high but feels that the benefits of hiring our own EMTs to serve Old Tappan outweighs the price concerns. Hiring the EMTs allows for a quick response time. Even if we have a contract with a hospital, residents might still have to pay for the services they receive. Contracts with hospitals can also prohibit the OTFAC from operating during the time period that a contracted ambulance is in service. There are only downsides with contracting with a hospital.

Discussion ensued on paid EMTs versus contracting with a hospital including other town's experiences, mutual aid and budgeting for these services.

Mayor Gallagher stated that if we were to even consider the OTFAC's proposal it would be contingent upon River Vale's involvement. The budget numbers need to be worked on further and passed on to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Yhu will reach out to River Vale again to see where they are at.

Chief Hopfer reported the OTFAC's February response statistics.

Councilman Yhu explained that he has attended several seminars on this topic and no one recommends that towns contract with a hospital because it ruins the volunteer first aid corps. Asked Chief Hopfer to elaborate on this.

Chief Hopfer explained that it is mainly because there are situations in the contract that says the OTFAC cannot respond which prevents new members from getting any experience. It would reduce the morale. The Mayor and Council might be able to negotiate these items with the hospital. They can also run the numbers for hiring per diem EMTs if the Mayor and Council are interested.

Discussion ensued on hiring per diem EMTs.

Mayor Gallagher would like to keep this conversation open and would like to know how our mutual aid towns are doing with their services. We have to be fiscally responsible but we also have to weigh in response time.

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Patrick Gambuti, 16 Autumn Lane, asked if there is any place to look for information on the proposed COAH legislation.

Mrs. Haverilla will post the resolution adopted tonight on the Borough's website.

Mayor Gallagher suggested that Mr. Gambuti research the 2 proposed bills.

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

EXECUTIVE MEETING

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notice 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

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present

Councilman William Boyce	Present
Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
Councilman Cort Gwon	Present
Councilwoman Christine Massaro	Present
Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Skrable reported that there was a preconstruction meeting last week for the Russell Avenue improvements which is a DOT project. Explained what the project entails. The contractor is looking to start the concrete work soon and then do the milling and paving during spring break week for the schools. The other project is DeWolf Road which started today. They are just doing the drainage work now because that will need to settle prior to doing the mailing and paving. This is also a DOT project. They are beginning to work on the Borough's paving program. There is another grant for phase 2 of the Perry Street drainage that is just getting started.

Councilman Boyce asked about the silt for the DeWolf Road project.

Mr. Skrable explained that the drainage ties into an existing pipe that runs all the way down DeWolf Road and ties into Dorotockey's Run. There will be basins installed on both sides of the street and they are recreating the crown in the road.

Councilman Yhu asked if the First Aid Corps and Fire Department will have any access issues during the Russell Avenue project.

Mr. Skrable stated that this was discussed in detail during the preconstruction meeting. We will make sure that everyone is aware of exactly what is going on. The rigs will be out of the building overnight for one night and placed somewhere they can respond from. The DPW Superintendent was involved in those discussions and has a plan in place.

Councilman Boyce asked about the status of reconfiguring the front end of the Borough Hall entrance and possibly the ramp going into the second story of the firehouse.

Mr. Skrable explained that there was a rough concept done but it would be a very expensive and complicated project.

Mrs. Haverilla asked if we can still move the parking lot entrance over so the ramp no longer goes right into it.

Mr. Skrable answered yes, we can make that situation better. We would just need a road opening permit from the county.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN GWON – FINANCE/LIBRARY

The OEM Coordinator has been looking at a few companies for mass notification platforms for emergency alerts and normal day to day communications for residents.

The Library Board will be inviting the potential student board member for an interview at their next meeting. This was a recommendation from the Youth Council. Read the February 2024 activity report.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Veterans are continuing their work on the Veterans Memorial at Oakes Park. They would like to acknowledge a WWII veteran prior to Memorial Day so they are looking into the materials to make that happen. They would also like to create a drop box for used flags and then have a ceremonial flag burning once a year. This could be a potential Boy Scouts project.

The Environmental Commission suggested that any funds generated from the tree removal permits could go into a salary/stipend to compensate a professional forester or arborists to help the Construction Official with these permits and inspections. They also suggested that they become a 501-C3 organization so that they can bring in donations.

Mr. Giblin explained that the Borough could do a dedicated trust by rider which people can donate to and is tax deductible.

COUNCILWOMAN MASSARO - RECREATION/HEALTH/HISTORICAL

The Board of Health discussed organizing another town wide walk at Stone Point Park this spring. They would like to offer a way to check the smoke detector batteries for seniors when we move the clocks forward. The results of the NJ Healthy Towns will come out this month.

The Historical Committee is waiting for the Heritage Tree sign to be made so that a presentation can be made at Bonnabel Park. They are working on setting up a guest speaker for May. Former Mayor Kramer brought in some Old Tappan artifacts that will be displayed upstairs at the firehouse.

The Youth Council will meet later in the month. The numbers and interest are growing. The NVOT newspaper is writing an article about them.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI - POLICE/ADMINISTRATION/GRANTS

No report

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – DPW/CONSTRUCTION

Read the DPW activity report.

Read the February 2024 Construction Department activity report. The DCA has jurisdiction over all elevator inspections and they take a long time so the Construction Official has suggested that we hire a company to do the inspections. The inspector would be accompanied by an Old Tappan inspector and we would charge the resident a permit fee for the inspection. An ordinance needs to be adopted to make this happen. We can discuss this at the next meeting once everyone has had time to review the proposed ordinance.

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/FIRE/SENIORS/SCHOOLS

Read the upcoming social events for the Seniors.

The high school just finished their annual musical. The NVOT varsity cheerleading team won the state cheer competition for the first time in history they then went on to win the national championship. Suggested we honor them with a proclamation at a future meeting.

Thanked the Fire Department and First Aid Corps for participating in the NVOT EMS Club's open house. It was very well attended.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: March 18, 2024