

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 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.

Oath of Office Administered to Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr. by Mayor Thomas Gallagher

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

Also Present:	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin
	Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRAYER – Councilman Gwon

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Boyce

Discussion – None

Brian Morgan, Old Tappan Fire Chief, would appreciate it if the OTFD can be advised as to when pre-construction meetings are taking place for anything involving the Fire Department.

Lisa Busch, 6 Perry Street, informed the Governing Body that she is not interested in anymore drainage work being done on her property by the town. The project is taking too long and causing a mess. Would like to be notified when the final plans are complete.

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Boyce

Discussion - None

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

PROCLAMATION

Honoring William Weidmann

Mayor Gallagher read the proclamation honoring William Weidmann.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Councilman Yhu explained that no action will be taken on this ordinance. A revised version of the ordinance will be introduced under New Business.

Motion to table the ordinance – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Yhu read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCILMAN GWON – FINANCE/LIBRARY

The Library Board met and discussed maintenance projects and new programs. They have a

representative from the Youth Council on the board now. They have no voting power though.

Would like to do a more comprehensive, multi-year budget analysis as well as a comparison to surrounding towns.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BD/ENVIRONMENTAL

A telephone pole was damaged during the most recent storm at the golf course. The pole needs to be replaced along with the underground service leading all the way to the golf course pump house. This will be an expensive project, but we are able to use the grant money that was originally earmarked for the irrigation upgrades. The DPW Superintendent is coordinating this project.

Larry Weil, an Environmental Commission member, is looking to spearhead additional sustainability initiatives. The Commission would like to weigh in on the master plan. They are looking to develop the new tree ordinance information packet, so residents know how to interpret it. This will be handed out with the permit application.

The Veterans Committee learned that there are Revolutionary War veterans that have not been recognized in town. They are considering having an Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award create and develop a new plaque for these veterans. This will be added to the other plaques at Oakes Park. There is a Girl Scout who is interested in creating a box for retired flags that can then be ceremonially burned. There is an income tax rebate for veterans that they will discuss further at their next meeting.

Last month's Planning Board meeting was cancelled because the applicant was not prepared.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI - POLICE/ADMINISTRATION/GRANTS

Read the Police Department activity report. Discussed the recent accident on Kay Street and the Police Chief's recommendation for this area to try and prevent more accidents.

Discussion ensued on the accident and what is best to do in that area to make it safer. It was decided to have the Police Chief attend the next meeting for further discussion.

There are a lot of emails going to the high school and the town about the side gate on Howard Drive being locked again. It has been explained to the residents that what is done with the gate is not a Borough decision since it is on school property. The Police Chief feels that if the gate is locked it is one less thing to worry about when it comes to the safety of the students and staff.

COUNCILWOMAN MASSARO - RECREATION/HEALTH/HISTORICAL

The Mental Health Book Club will be on March 28th at 7:00pm at the library.

The Recreation Commission has been discussing the scholarships given to high school seniors each year. They have decided to do it through an application process for each sport. The

applicants need to be from town, but they do not have to attend NVOT. They are trying to figure out how best to advertise this to the seniors.

The Youth Council are very organized and motivated. They would like to get involved with volunteering for town events as well as create events for their age group. Mental health is also a topic they spoke about. They attend and take part in the Board of Education meetings.

Councilman Gwon discussed an incident that occurred at an indoor soccer game where a team lied about the age and where a player lived. Would the town be liable for anything that happened to that player?

Mr. Giblin explained that it sounds more like a criminal act and the town would generally not be liable for criminal acts taken by others.

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/FIRE/SENIORS/SCHOOLS

The Seniors enjoyed their St. Patrick's Day luncheon which was very well attended. The advisory committee has organized bowling once a month at Montvale Lanes.

The NVOT cheerleaders will be attending the April 1st meeting where we will be honoring them with a proclamation for winning the state championships. Discussed the proposed school budget.

The Fire Department had an extrication drill last week. Tonight, they will be doing their annual recertification on SCBA equipment. In the coming weeks they will be assisting the PTO with their annual fundraiser.

The First Aid Corps has been responding to both local and mutual aid calls.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Attended the Bergen County League of Municipalities breakfast and the Pascack Valley Mayor's Association monthly meeting. At both these meetings affordable housing legislation was discussed. He personally wrote to our state senators and assembly members voicing his opposition to the bills. He will address this issue in the next newsletter. Discussed the OPRA legislation. The editor of the NVOT newspaper reached out to him for comments on the Youth Council. Attended the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby.

Discussion ensued on affordable housing and what the next round will entail and what steps we need to take.

Mayor Gallagher explained that we are not against affordable housing, he just wishes they would change the figures. He is concerned with zoning. Thinks we are in for a battle over the next couple of years.

Councilman Boyce suggested updating our GIS system with all the pieces of property in town that are unsuitable for development because they flood.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Councilman Yhu made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, February 20, 2024
- Regular & Executive Meetings, March 4, 2024

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

*Councilman Yhu abstained on the February 20, 2024, minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

First Aid Corps

Councilman Yhu hopes that everyone was able to review the proposals from Hackensack University Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital. They both basically say the same thing. Explained the details of each proposal. Does not feel that contracting with a hospital is the way to go. Not good for the OTFAC members' morale.

Mayor Gallagher explained that the OTFAC's Plan A is to do a joint program with River Vale which he is pretty sure is not going to happen. Without River Vale's cooperation this is not the route we are going to take.

Councilman Yhu explained that using a hospital ambulance service is Plan B. He Would rather see a stipend plan in place to help these volunteers.

Discussion ensued on the idea of giving the OTFAC stipends.

Mayor Gallagher would like the OTFAC Committee to meet with the OTFAC leadership and find out what they feel are the best options and report back.

NEW BUSINESS

Verizon Wireless Right of Way Use Agreement

Mr. Giblin explained that this began when the town wanted to install a single pole with cell service near Stone Point Park. The telephone company sent us an agreement that would have allowed them to put these small cells on utility poles anywhere in town. He did not think that the Governing Body would want that, so he asked that this be added to tonight's agenda. The DPW Superintendent and Police Chief feel that the spot chosen for the pole is the best location.

Discussion ensued on the location and timing of the installation.

All were in favor of installing just one pole.

Ordinance 1250-24 – Amend LOSAP Ordinance - Fire Department – Resolution of Introduction

Councilman Yhu read the resolution.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gwon

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

Discussion - None

Bob Scozzafava, 29 Longview Court, explained that he is a substitute crossing guard in town. Many of the parents who park in the area of Kay Street cross the street but they should walk up to the crossing guard so it can be done safely. That whole area is out of control with the school traffic.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: April 15, 2024