

Meeting Held In-Person & On Zoom

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER
March 2, 2023 8:00 p.m.**

PRESIDING: Borough Administrator Preusch called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC NOTICE: Pursuant to the Open Sunshine Act P.L. 1975, c. 231, proper notice of this meeting has been provided by submitting appropriate notice to The Ridgewood News and The Record on December 15, 2022 by email in which the time, place and purpose of the meeting was set forth.

❖ **Proclamation: Celebrate “Read Across America” and “Read Across America-NJ” beginning on March 2, 2023**

Council President Ditkoff read this proclamation to the public.

❖ **Proclamation: Celebrate Girl Scout Week in Upper Saddle River – March 12-18, 2023**

Council Member Florio read this proclamation to the public. She commended the Girl Scouts in attendance for their community service. At this time, the Girl Scouts presented Borough employees with appreciation bags.

Council President Ditkoff recognized resident Jay Perez for being the AT&T’s 2022 Community Impact Award Winner. Mr. Perez has been the Chairman of the Upper Saddle River Environmental Committee for several years.

Mr. Perez thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition and stated that the Environmental Commission is exploring many exciting initiatives moving forward.

RULE 1. ROLL CALL

Mayor	Arman Fardanesh	Absent
Council Member	Steven DiMartino	Present
Council Member	Jonathan Ditkoff	Present
Council Member	Sarah Drennan	Present
Council Member	Joanne Florio	Present
Council Member	Richard Lyons	Absent
Council Member	Roger Masi	Absent

RULE 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were delivered to all members of the governing body, posted on the bulletin board and were unanimously approved following a motion by Council Member DiMartino, seconded by Council Member Drennan.

February 2, 2023: Executive, Closed and Regular Meetings

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RULE 3. BOROUGH CLERK’S REPORT

The Borough Clerk’s office received the following fees for the month of January 2023 and deposited them with the Collector/Treasurer:

Landscaper Licenses	\$ 630.00
Insufficient Funds	\$ 35.00
	<u>\$ 665.00</u>

The Borough Clerk’s office issued 159 licenses for the month of February 2023; **\$229.80** was forwarded to the NJ department of Health for the Pilot Clinic and Animal Control Fund.

Proof of publications received:

- ❖ **Introduction of Ordinance 01-23 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 128 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER ENTITLED, “TOWING”.**

The following reports were received and are on file for the month of February:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Police Report | 4) Construction Report |
| 2) DPW Report | 5) Municipal Court Report |
| 3) Fire Department Report* | |

*The Firefighter of the Month for the month of February was awarded to Tom Cusumano for his exemplary work on securing grants for the department.

RULE 4. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND BILLS

Approval of Bills: A motion by Council Member DiMartino, seconded by Council Member Drennan to pay bills in amount of **\$4,402,794.83** was unanimously approved; bills are approved for payment.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Communications:

RULE 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second Reading, Open Public Hearing – **Ordinance #01-23**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 128 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER ENTITLED, “TOWING”.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one wished to be heard.

Motion Offered by Council Member DiMartino
Seconded by Council Member Florio

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RULE 6. NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda:

All items listed with an asterisk (*) hereunder, are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Council and shall be so approved. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a

Council Member or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Open to the Public: (For Consent Agenda Items Only)

Vivian Figueroa, 37 Stone Ledge Road stated that she came before the Mayor and Council at the February 2, 2023 meeting in order to have the Return of Escrow resolution (#57-23) tabled as she feels she has unrectified flooding issues from the Toll Brothers construction at The Preserve.

She is once again asking that Resolution #60-23 be tabled in order to hold up escrow payment to Toll Brothers. She was informed that any water issues she is experiencing are not caused by the aforementioned construction but the wetlands adjacent to her property. She was further informed that the escrow funds cannot be withheld due to statutory regulations. The Borough Engineer has determined that there is no legal basis to withheld Toll Brother’s escrow funds and Mrs. Figueroa was advised to hire a civil engineer to address this matter on her behalf.

Voice Vote: AYES, Unanimous

- *1. Resolution #60-23: Return of Escrow
- *2. Resolution #61-23: Appointing Redactor, As Mandated by Daniel’s Law
- *3. Resolution #62-23: NBCUA TV Inspection of Sanitary Sewers
- *4. Resolution #63-23: NBCUA Sanitary Sewer Jetting Services
- *5. Resolution #64-23: Transfer Resolution \$19,500
- *6. Resolution #65-23: 2023 Temporary Budget

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items offered by Council Member Drennan
Seconded by Council Member Florio

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

***Introduction of Ordinance #02-23**

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 51 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER ENTITLED, “FIRE PREVENTION”

Motion Offered by Council Member Florio
Seconded by Council Member DiMartino

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

***Introduction of Ordinance #03-23**

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,200,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Motion Offered by Council Member DiMartino
Seconded by Council Member Drennan

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

*Motion to approve 50/50 Raffle License #421 SRV Lion’s Charities, Inc.
Offered by Council Member Florio
Seconded by Council Member Drennan

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

*Motion to approve Games of Chance Raffle License #422 SRV Lion's Charities, Inc.

Offered by Council Member Florio

Seconded by Council Member Drennan

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

*Motion to approve Raffle License #423 for SRV Junior Woman's Club

Offered by Council Member Florio

Seconded by Council Member Drennan

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RULE 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

William Spencer, 4 Barnfield Court offered a presentation regarding risks to Upper Saddle River's water supply due to sewage overflow, climate change and rapid development north of the Borough in Rockland County. He addressed the Mikvah on Hillside Avenue and stated that the water table will decrease due to commercial quantities of water being drawn from the aquifer. The cemetery on Hillside Avenue will also have a negative impact on the water supply. He informed the Mayor and Council that he would provide written copies of his presentation for their review and encouraged the Mayor and Council to continue to address these issues.

Jay Perez, 100 Hampshire Hill Road stated that his property abuts the Mikvah property on Hillside Avenue and he and his neighbors have concerns about water and lighting issues and he encouraged the Mayor and Council to address these concerns.

Sophia Ferez, 15 Corn Mill Court addressed the Mayor and Council about holding a Ramadan celebration on March 19, 2023 at the Borough Hall. She explained the details of the celebration which will include the lighting of the crescent moon. The Mayor and Council suggested that this event be shared on social media. A motion was made and seconded to approve this event.

Erik Friis, 4 Sparrowbush Road discussed the format of the Mayor and Council Meeting, specifically the quality of the audio. He further stated that the ordinance prohibiting dogs in Lion's Park should be reconsidered. He was informed that the school owns most of the property at Lion's Park and the Borough has no jurisdiction over much of this property.

Christina Rodriguez, 18 Cherry Lane thanked the Mayor and Council and the Police Department for handling a traffic/safety issue on her street. She further stated that she has concerns about water issues in her area due to her proximity to Hillside Avenue.

Sheryl Romano, 421 West Saddle River Road asked about the Shade Tree Commission and the members, as it is not on the Borough website. She addressed a property on West Saddle River Road that had many trees removed in order to construct a new home.

RULE 8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn by was made, seconded and was unanimously approved by all Council members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini, RMC
Municipal Clerk