

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11 , 2022, at 5:00 P.M.**

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee was held on the above date in the Memorial Municipal Building, 309 Main Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

PRESENT : Mayor Sokolich, Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

ALSO PRESENT : Alfred Restaino, Borough Administrator
Evelyn Rosario, Municipal Clerk
Nadine Drumgoole, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 adequate notice informing the public of the time and place of this meeting was duly published in the Record, the Jersey Journal and Star Ledger issues of November 12, 2021. Said notice was also posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board and Borough website.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS:

On motion by Councilman Cervieri seconded by Council woman Kasofsky and approved **unanimously** , the meeting moved into closed session.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that:

This body shall hereafter discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act, certain items which may generally be described as follows:

1. **Personnel:**
 - a. Building Department
 - b. Community Center
 - c. Department of Public Works
 - d. EMS
 - e. Health Department
 - f. Municipal Court
 - g. Fort Lee Prosecutor (MSOK)
 - h. Recreation Department
 - i. Senior Center
 - j. Stage Crew

2. **Legal:**
 - a. Affordable Housing
 - b. Rent Leveling Appeal Complaint No. 2102

The minutes of the discussion in closed session may be disclosed to the public when the Mayor and Council has determined that the need for confidentiality has been satisfied.

The open portion of the work session will resume upon completion of the closed portion.

The closed portion of the meeting ended at 5:55 P.M. The open portion of the work session began at 6:00 P.M.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Financial Agreement Between the Fort Lee Parking Authority and the Borough of Fort Lee

A resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a financial agreement regarding the above captioned will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Request from the Fort Lee Housing Authority for Replacement of Fire Pump Standpipe System at 1403 Theresa Drive

A resolution endorsing a community development block grant request for the above captioned will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Representative Appointment

A resolution authorizing the appointment of municipal representatives to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee for Fiscal year 2022-20223 will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

Agreement between the Borough of Fort Lee and Bank of America, N.A. Right of Way Access

A resolution authoring the mayor to execute an agreement permitting access to the public right of way at 154 Main Street will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

8th Annual Paws in the Park October 29, 2022

A resolution authorizing the above captioned will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

Hellenic Society Request to the Use Senior Center October 29, 2022

A resolution authorizing the above captioned will be placed on the proposed August 11th amended agenda.

Rent Leveling Appeal Complaint No. 2102

The Governing Body agreed upon taking no action.

Dog Enforcement (MSOK)

Mayor Sokolich addressed the council regarding dogs being present in the parks and owners not cleaning up after them. A video created by the mayor addressing and informing the public will be posted. He suggested to restrict dog access to certain parks and conditional use in certain parks given rules are enforced. He suggested the possibility of placing enclosed dog run's in all parks.

Councilman Cervieri addressed the fine involved for not following the enforced rules pertaining to dogs in the park and suggested to increase it.

Further discussion will be placed on a future work session agenda.

Borough Hall Mural (MSOK)

A brief discussion was held, the Council agreed upon the preservation of the historic monument of the building.

Sewer Contribution for New Construction (MSOK)

Mayor Sokolich addressed the council regarding storms occurring every 3 years as opposed to every 100 years due to climate control which is creating flooding in the borough.

Brian Chewcaskie stated we have connection fees that can be increased and reimbursed for. Another option is to do an independent study to adopt an ordinance in addition to a connection fee there would be an additional fee. Mr. Chewcaskie will retain Boswell Engineering to conduct a study.

Free Shuttle Service to the Ferry (MSOK)

***Councilman Sargenti recused and left the meeting**

Mayor Sokolich addressed the council regarding the parking authority's need of a new 24 passenger handicap accessible bus. Approximately 900 passengers are being transported, with the majority being from Cliffside Park. The Council is considering entering into an interlocal agreement with Cliffside Park for a shared service bus to the ferry.

Redevelopment Area 5 Vacant Lot (MSOK)

***Councilman Cervieri recused and left the meeting**

Mayor Sokolich addressed the council regarding redevelopment area 5 vacant lot.

Borough Attorney Brian Chewcaskie mentioned an agreement was entered into on March 15, 2012, with no current plans to move forward as of yet. A draft letter has been crafted to be addressed to the owner stating a timeline must be submitted and progress to begin.

ADD ON

Councilwoman Kasofsky requested to establish a creative team as a subcommittee of the Sustainable Green Team Advisory Committee

A resolution we be placed on the proposed emended August 11th agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On motion by Councilman Suh seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened to the public for discussion.

There being no public discussion the meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Suh, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, at 6:25 PM.

Evelyn Rosario, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Prepared By:
Nadine Drumgoole, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk