

REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Thursday, September 22, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Al Restaino, Borough Administrator
Evelyn Rosario, Borough 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.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Good evening, everyone, welcome to our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meeting. Just a few announcements, one that I do want to start off with. We received a letter recently from a dear colleague and after a very long and illustrious career in local government, Councilman Michael Sargenti will be retiring and Michael you are going to be sorely missed. There will be more announcements on this to come as the way the process works and Mr. Chewcaskie correct me if I am wrong, we now are in receipt of Michael's resignation effective as of the date certain and the committee will then go through an interview process and then recommend to the governing body a replacement, correct?”

Mr. Chewcaskie addressed the public that there is a total 30-day period, with 15 days for the committee to act and 15 days for the council to act.

Mr. Sargenti, you will hear more about you as the weeks ensue but, I wanted to be amongst the first to congratulate you and in the letter that I wrote to the council, I copied a few other people, you were in my book the prototype of what a council person should be. You were that go to guy, you are that grass roots guy and as I also mentioned no better champion to the kids of this town. I love you and you are one of the select minority people that I can honestly call a true friend but, I met you during the run of politics. I love you and best of luck to you. But I am not saying goodbye to you because you are not going anywhere. And I am sure you will hear from your colleagues as the weeks ensue. Number two, everything seems to happen at the same time here in the Borough of Fort Lee. After a six-year journey, we finally have a brand-new post-office handicap accessible and free of mold, asbestos and more than ample parking. It is directly behind the old post office on Main Street, it opened up about a week ago. They are now completely moved out and Fort Lee now is about to take control of that property and upon it we are going to build a park that will be nothing less than spectacular. I have seen initial designs; they are beautiful and we are very excited about it. The governing body will move on that quickly. There has also been some conversation as to why don't we save the building. Number one we earmarked that land for a park now for 6 or 7 years. Number two, the murals have been removed and are now in the hands of professional restorers in Chicago I believe. They have been driven back to Chicago and will now spend the next few months restoring and those murals will be prominently displayed elsewhere in the Borough. That building that I personally walked

through today, and I have done that many times is ridden with asbestos, not handicapped accessible it is structurally unsound. I will let everybody in on a little secret that I have been pushing for the last 2 or 3 weeks to turn it into a haunted mansion for this upcoming Halloween. You are laughing but, I really wanted to turn it into a haunted mansion for the kids for Halloween. I figure put some webs in, get some folks in with some costumes that will walk through, just have some fun. Have some dry ice in there with some fake smoke but we just cannot do it. We cannot expose the kids to that and frankly I am surprised the employees have been exposed to that. Now that things have been moved around and things have been removed off the wall, we do not know what is airborne and we cannot take that chance. We are going to release a video tomorrow talking about the new post office and the plans for the old post office. It is a building that we simply cannot save, there is no utility to it. You put that up against the beautiful park, I think the park will make that victory. The post office is out the new post office is open and you will start to see movement on that property now because we have been getting ready for it for a while. Also, at the same time our new theater, the Barrymore Film Center has received its final approval and final CO. There is a grand opening for members on October 13th that is a walkthrough to show the members and the friends of the Barrymore the inside of it. The public schedule will be released very shortly, there will be public nights so that everybody in Fort Lee can go there to see it and enjoy it. There is a gala set up for October 15th so it is getting very exciting, and we are looking forward to many years of entertainment and education at our new theater. And finally, schools are open, so everyone please be vigilant, make sure you stop at crosswalks as enforcement is out there. Make sure you take into the fact that our kids are back in school going to and from school and going to activities over the weekends so be especially attuned to the fact that we need to drive safely in Fort Lee. With that being said I am going to ask that I believe our first order of business is a proclamation.”

PROCLAMATION

The following Proclamation was read by Evelyn Rosario, Municipal Clerk

WHEREAS, this Nation’s ardent promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities affirms our commitment to ensure that People with Disabilities have every opportunity to reach their full potential, in every aspect of life; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation and communication, reaches its thirty second year of implementation in 2022; and

WHEREAS, there is much progress to celebrate in the Borough of Fort Lee, and yet even more progress to strive toward,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, hereby declares **October** as **“National Disabilities Awareness Month”** in Fort Lee and wish to recognize our Fort Lee Advisory Committee for Individuals with Disabilities for their efforts on behalf of the disabled community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council do hereby proclaim that October provides a special opportunity to actively celebrate the significant contributions of People with Disabilities, and to strengthen, even further, our ongoing dedication to equal opportunity for every individual.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 11, 2022, Closed Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 11, 2022, Work Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 11, 2022, Regular Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 8, 2022, Closed Session were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 8, 2022, Work Session were approved.

RESOLUTION

R-1 Authorizing Cancellation of the Funded Balance of Borough Ordinance No. 2016-19 to Capital Fund Balance

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh	X		X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri			X			

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Resolution # R-1
Carried: X Defeated: Tabled:
Approved on Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE CANCELLING THE FUNDED BALANCE OF BOROUGH ORDINANCE 2016-19 TO CAPITAL FUND BALANCE

WHEREAS, there is a Funded Balance in Ordinance 2016-19; and

WHEREAS, all of the projects contained in the Ordinance have been completed;
and

WHEREAS, the Borough wants to use these funds for a new project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that the Funded Balance of \$235,889 in Ordinance 2016-19 is hereby cancelled to Capital Fund Balance.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ord. 2022-17 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM FOR THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AND APPROPRIATING \$235,889 FOR SUCH PURPOSE (Public Hearing October 20, 2022)

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Sohmer, and carried, Ord. #2022 -17 entitled “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM FOR THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AND APPROPRIATING \$235,889 FOR SUCH PURPOSE” (Public Hearing October 20, 2022) was introduced and passed on first reading.

The Ordinance was **approved** on the following roll call, and the public hearing relative to this ordinance was scheduled for October 20, 2022.

AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

Ord. 2022-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, BOROUGH CLERK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TAX COLLECTOR, TAX ASSESSOR AND CERTAIN NON-UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2022-2025 (Public Hearing October 20, 2022)

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S argenti , and carried, Ord. #2022-18 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR, BOROUGH CLERK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TAX COLLECTOR, TAX ASSESSOR AND CERTAIN NON-UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2022-2025” (Public Hearing October 20, 2022) was introduced and passed on first reading.

The Ordinance was **approved** on the following roll call, and the public hearing relative to this ordinance was scheduled for October 20, 2022.

AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

Ord. 2022-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-26 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021-2022

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S argenti , and carried, Ord. #2022 -19 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-26 ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FOR 2021-2022”

The Ordinance was **approved** on the following roll call, and the public hearing relative to this ordinance was scheduled for October 20, 2022.

AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

Ord. 2022-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 289 ENTITLED “PARKING” AND CHAPTER 388 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC ” (Public Hearing October 20, 2022)

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S uh, and carried, Ord. #2022 -20 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 289 ENTITLED “PARKING” AND CHAPTER 388 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” (Public Hearing October 20, 2022) was introduced and passed on the first reading.

The Ordinance was **approved** on the following roll call, and the public hearing relative to this ordinance was scheduled for October 20, 2022.

AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Councilman Cervieri , seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky , the Proposed Consent Agenda was introduced, and the public hearing was opened relative to items CA-1 through CA-12.

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer						
Yoon						
Suh						
Sargenti						
Kasofsky		X				
Cervieri	X					

September 22, 2022
Regular Session Meeting

Resolution # CA-1 to CA-12

Carried: __ Defeated: __ Tabled: __

Approved on Consent Agenda: X

CA-1 Payment of Claims

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following claims, the details for which are attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby authorized to be paid, having been audited and found correct by the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Current	\$8,544,599.51
Current - Grant	
Capital	1,272,099.05
Road Improvement Plan	
Multiple Dwelling	
Construction Fees	
COAH Fees	
Senior Citizen Advisory Council	
Trip Admissions	1,800.00
Special Dog Account	
Trust Account Fund	269.00
Redemption Account	281.535.45
Disability Insurance Trust	
Public Assistance Trust Fund	
Police Activity Trust	
Fort Lee Film Commission	
Community Development	
School Resource Account	1,638.90
Dedicated Penalties (Fire Prevention)	
POAA	
Police Donation	
Police Treasury	300.00
Police Justice	17,157.50
Flexible Spending	
Trust Account	
Developers CONNECT ONE	35,617.53
Developers B of America	1,433.50

Total: \$ 10,156,450.44

CA-2 Approving Firefighter Auxiliary Application for Michael Mperey, Fire Company #1 and New Jersey State Firemen 's Association Membership Application for David Y. Kim, Fire Company #2

The New Jersey State Firemen's Association Membership Application for Michael Mperey, Fire Company #1 and for David Y. Kim, Fire Company #2 were approved.

CA-3 Accepting Resignation Notice of Catherine Umrichin, Police Department Public Safety Telecommunicator

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION NOTICE OF CATHERINE UMRICHIN

BE IT RESOLVED that Catherine Umrichin, Public Safety Telecommunicator of the Police Department Communications Center has submitted her resignation notice dated September 1, 2022, and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Ms. Umrichin's resignation will be effective September 23, 2022 with the Borough of Fort Lee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Ms. Umrichin.

CA-4 Authorizing Salary Adjustments for E. DePalma, Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist, \$73,930.00, J. Keelen, Court Administrator, \$143,000 and B. Ribarro, Construction Code Official, \$168,776.00, Effective Retroactively to August 11, 2022

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE EXPANDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are desirous of expanding the responsibilities of certain Borough employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that the success of the Borough is attributed to these expanded responsibilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, have authorized salary adjustments for the following employees associated with these additional responsibilities:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
DePalma, E.	Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist	\$73,930	8/11/2022
Keelen, J.	Court Administrator	\$143,000	8/11/2022
Ribarro, B.	Construction Code Official	\$168,776	8/11/2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above listed salaries and titles associated with each employee shall be effective in accordance with the above table.

CA-5 Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for “Outside Employment of Off-Duty Municipal Officers” Required by Local Finance Notice (LFN) 2000-14

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR “OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF OFF-DUTY MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ” REQUIRED BY “LOCAL FINANCE NOTICE (LFN) 2000-14 ”

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, Local Finance Notice 2000-14 provides for receipt of funds from Outside Employment of Off-Duty Municipal Officers by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the Outside Employment of Off-Duty Municipal Officers are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the Outside Employment of Off-Duty Municipal Officers per LFN 2000-14.
2. The Clerk of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen, is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

CA-6 Approving Request from Velocity Ride to Permit the 2022 Bicycling

Fundraiser to Travel Through Fort Lee on October 2, 2022

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING A REQUEST FROM VELOCITY RIDE TO PERMIT THE 2022 BICYCLING FUNDRAISER TO TRAVEL THROUGH FORT LEE

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2022, the Borough of Fort Lee received a request from the Ms. Jena McLaughlin, Ride Director for the “2022 Velocity Ride to End Cancer” to permit the organization to conduct its annual Velocity Ride in the Borough of Fort Lee; and

WHEREAS, the Velocity Ride has been organized to raise funds that will benefit Columbia University Medical Center’s Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, grants permission for the 2022 Velocity Ride.

CA-7 Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Obtain Specifications and Advertise for Bids for Jane and William Street Road Improvements

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO OBTAIN SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR “JANE AND WILLIAM STREET ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ”

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the Borough’s Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized and directed to obtain specifications and advertise for bids for:

1. Jane and William Street Road Improvements

CA-8 Authorizing the Award of an Emergency Contract to Gotthold Paving, LLC for the Repairs to Claremont Road, \$197,200.00

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFICATION AWARD OF AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT/PURCHASE FOR THE REPAIRS TO CLAREMONT ROAD

WHEREAS, the Borough of Fort Lee was notified of significant damage done from flooding on Claremont Road.

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer along with the Qualified Purchasing Agent have determined it was an emergency affecting the public health, safety, and welfare and Claremont Road needed to be repaired.

WHEREAS, the Borough is required to repair Claremont Road with a vendor in a timely and safe manner to provide for the safety of its residents;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Fort Lee Purchasing Agent has declared the need for an emergency repair to Claremont Road and,

WHEREAS, Gotthold Paving, LLC P.O. Box 205, Edgewater, NJ 07020 has provided the Borough with a quote for the emergency repair of Claremont Road for the Borough of Fort Lee and will provide said repair at a cost of \$197,200.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has adequate funds appropriated for the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE:

1. Authorizes, Matthew Rutch, Qualified Purchasing Agent to approve the repairs to Claremont Road, the determined emergency from Gotthold Paving, LLC as described herein.

CA-9 Authorizing Issuance of Requests for Qualifications for Professional Services and or Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services to the Borough of Fort Lee

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND OR EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2006, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq., commonly known as the “State Pay to Play” law, enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature became effective; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.3, a municipality may not award contracts with a value in excess of \$17,500.00 to a business entity which has made reportable contributions in excess of \$300.00, in the aggregate, to the said municipality’s political parties or to any candidate’s committee of any person serving in an elective public office of the said municipality when such a contract was awarded, unless said business entity is awarded a contract under a “fair and open process” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, a “fair and open process” constitutes the following: (1) public advertisement of a Request for Qualifications (hereinafter the “RFQ”) issued a minimum ten (10) calendar days notice prior to the receipt of responses to the RFQ; (2) award of contract under a process that provides for public solicitation of qualifications; (3) award of contract under publicly disclosed criteria established, in writing, by the municipality prior to the solicitation of qualifications; and (4) the municipality shall publicly announce the weightings for the evaluation criteria and open the Qualifications Statements; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary for the Borough of Fort Lee (hereinafter the “Borough”) to engage professionals and the Borough desires to appoint such professionals by a “fair and open process” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that requests for RFQs for professional services for the following professional services for the Borough and its agencies are hereby authorized:

1. Borough Attorney
2. Labor Attorney
3. Borough Auditor
4. Bond Counsel
5. Borough Engineer
6. Building Department/Fire Prevention Bureau Accountant
7. Municipal Court/Police Department Accountant
8. Tax Counsel
9. Borough Risk Manager
10. Health Benefits
11. Traffic Engineer
12. Special/Conflict Counsel
13. Borough Planner
14. Rent Leveling Board Attorney
15. Radio Frequency Communications Engineer
16. Financial Advisor
17. Real Estate Tax Appeal Appraiser
18. Grant Consulting Services
19. Redevelopment Attorney
20. Affordable Housing Attorney

21. Ethics Board Attorney

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the RFOs for the professional services as set forth hereinabove shall be prepared and published in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. and all such RFOs shall be evaluated on the basis of the most advantageous RFO, all factors considered, including, but not limited to: (1) experience and reputation in the profession; (2) knowledge of the subject matter to be addressed under contract; (3) availability to accommodate any required meetings of the Borough or Borough Agency; (4) and cost proposal.

CA-10 Authorizing Renewal of Membership in the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for a Three (3) Year Period Beginning January 1, 2023, Ending December 31, 2025

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOUTH BERGEN MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

WHEREAS, Fort Lee is a member of the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, said renewed membership terminates as of December 31, 2022, unless earlier renewed by agreement between the Municipality and the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality desires to renew said membership;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. Fort Lee agrees to renew its membership in the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and to be subject to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, coverages, and operating procedures thereof as presently existing or as modified from time to time by lawful act of the Fund. .
2. The Mayor and Clerk shall be and hereby are authorized to execute the agreement to renew membership annexed hereto and made a part hereof and to deliver same to the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund evidencing the Municipality's intention to renew its membership.

CA-11 Authorizing the Appointment of Ioulia (Julie) Liapes as Registrar of Vital Statistics /Board of Health Secretary, Effective October 1, 2022

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. IOULIA (JULIE) LIAPES AS REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS/BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2022, a vacancy exists for the position of the Borough of Fort Lee Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary due to the retirement of Ms. Mary Lazzaro; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ioulia (Julie) Liapes is a Certified Municipal Registrar and is qualified for the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary, having received her Registrar's Certification from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that Ms. Ioulia (Julie) Liapes is hereby appointed as Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary of the Borough of Fort Lee effective October 1, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED , that this appointment shall be provisional pending certification from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and shall be at an annual salary of \$50,000.00 in accordance with the White Collar Contract.

CA-12 Authorizing a Salary Adjustment for Miriam Rosenbluth, \$65,000, Effective October 1, 2022.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE EXPANDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MS. MIRIAM ROSENBLUTH

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are desirous of expanding the responsibilities of Ms. Miriam Rosenbluth of the Health Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that the success of the Borough is attributed to these expanded responsibilities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, have authorized a salary adjustment for Ms. Rosenbluth to \$65,000.00 with these additional responsibilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this salary adjustment shall be effective October 1, 2022.

There being no discussion, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky. The Consent Agenda regarding CA-1 through CA- 12 was approved on the following roll call:

AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Sargenti, Kasofsky, Cervieri

RESOLUTIONS

R-2 Authorizing the Certification of the Borough 's 2021 Annual Audit

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Sargenti		X	X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

September 22, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # R-2 Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u> </u> Tabled: <u> </u> Approved on Consent Agenda: <u> </u>
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RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE MAYOR AND COUNCIL CERTIFYING THE 2021 ANNUAL AUDIT ”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year **2021** has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the **Municipal Clerk** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “Comments

and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the **Mayor & Council** of the **Borough of Fort Lee**, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

R-3 Authorizing the 2021 Corrective Action Plan

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh		X	X			
Sargenti			X			
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

September 22, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Resolution # R-3 Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u> </u> Tabled: <u> </u> Approved on Consent Agenda: <u> </u>
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RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING THE 2021 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the 2021 audit was received by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee; and

WHEREAS, certain comments and recommendations were made in the 2020 audit and are attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, a corrective action plan has been submitted by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Fort Lee and is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee to implement the corrective action plan in response to comments and recommendations contained in the 2021 Audit Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Council have implemented the corrective action plan filed by the Chief Financial Officer in order to comply with the comments and recommendations as set forth in the 2021 Audit.

2. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services, the Borough Administrator, Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Auditor.

3. That the Corrective Action Plan and this resolution shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Sohmer - He mentioned this past Sundays' senior picnic was a large success. Also, the Barrymore Film Center and Museum will be placing 11 stars in the concrete on October 3rd with an open house to follow as well as a gala on Saturday October 15th.

He stated the kids are back in school, please be safe driving.

He wished everyone a happy and healthy Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur.

Mayor Sokolich - He wished everyone a happy and healthy Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur.

Councilman Yoon - He mentioned to please be aware of the pedestrians crossing as school is back in session.

He congratulated Councilman Sargenti on his retirement from the Borough Council.

Councilman Suh - He mentioned the senior picnic was a great success and thanked the Parking Authority for their participation in transportation.

He stated the kids are back in school, please be safe driving. Monday and Tuesday school is closed due to Rosh Hashanah, he wished all a happy New Year. He mentioned Fort Lee varsity football is having their home opener Friday September 23rd please attend and support Fort Lee.

He congratulated Cathy Umrichin on her retirement and thanked her for her time served in the community.

He thanked Councilman Sargenti for his service, support and friendship over the years and congratulated him on his retirement.

Mayor Sokolich - He wished Cathy Umrichin best of luck on her endeavors and congratulated her on her retirement from the Borough of Fort Lee.

Councilman Sargenti - He wished Cathy Umrichin best of luck on her endeavors and congratulated her on her retirement from the Borough of Fort Lee.

He gave a monthly response activity report regarding the Fort Lee Voluntary Fire Department for calls assisted for the month of September. He encouraged the public to volunteer at the Fort Lee Fire Department.

Councilwoman Kasofsky - She mentioned the Fort Lee Health Fair will be held on Saturday October 15th at the Jack Alter Community Center. This Saturday September 24th we will be hosting a meet and greet barbeque at the community garden. She mentioned all the upcoming library events that can be found on the library website.

She congratulated Councilman Sargenti on his retirement from Borough Council and Cathy Umrichin on her retirement from the Borough of Fort Lee.

Councilman Cervieri - He mentioned the Mayor and Council were visited by members of their sister city Namyangju including their chairperson of their city council.

He congratulated Cathy Umrichin on her retirement.

He mentioned the Fort Lee Athletic Club is hosting a casino night on October 2nd, benefiting the Fort Lee Athletic Club Scholarship Fund.

He stated he received an email regarding pedestrian safety on Main Street and Fletcher Avenue, requesting a walkway which will be brought to the attention of the traffic safety division.

He congratulated Councilman Sargenti on 20 years of service.

Councilman Yoon - He mentioned he has received a lot of calls regarding pedestrian safety and suggested blinking crosswalk lights. Mayor Sokolich responded some of the roads in Fort Lee are out of our jurisdiction although we have inquired within.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Tanya, Fort Lee Resident

She suggested the sidewalks on Main Street be expanded as they are currently narrow, as stores are utilizing the sidewalks with tables and chairs. She also mentioned sidewalks in need of repairs to avoid trip and fall accidents.

Mayor Sokolich responded Main Street sidewalks have been reconstructed within the last 7 years gaining 5-7 feet. We do have restraints on where we can and cannot expand. Mr. Robert Perelli, Building Department Code Enforcer responds to sidewalk complaints and will be informed of sidewalks in need of repairs for proper notification to the owner.

There being no further public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman S uh.**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilman Suh, and there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with no objections at 7:59 p.m.

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