

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS****320 Boulevard****Hasbrouck Heights, NJ****And via livestream <https://www.aaliveevents.com/events>****MINUTES****April 26, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on April 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 320 Boulevard.

Mayor DeLorenzo declared the meeting in Session and Borough Clerk Laurie Varga stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, Adequate notice of this meeting has been made to all members of the Council on January 3, 2022 and transmitted to The Record and The Herald News on January 5, 2022 in accordance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor John DeLorenzo, Councilwoman Josephine Ciocia, Councilman Michael Sickels, Councilman Robert Bing, Councilman Thomas Meli, Councilman Ron Kistner, Councilman Hillman

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor DeLorenzo led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor DeLorenzo expressed his condolences on behalf of the Mayor & Council to Foreman of DPW, Angelo Roccamo, who lost his father.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was given by Councilman Kistner

**MINUTES:** April 12, 2022 Executive Meeting  
April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the Clerk to read the list of minutes for approval. When done, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes which was made by Councilwoman Ciocia, seconded by Councilman Sickels and carried with Councilman Bing and Councilman Meli abstaining from the second because they were not on the Council at that time.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1. Letter from DPW Foreman Angelo Roccamo regarding his retirement

2. Letter from Acting Fire Chief Greco regarding the retirement of Michael Ratkowski from HHFD
3. Letter from Acting Fire Chief Greco regarding the resignation of Hipen Shah from the HHFD Ambulance Squad

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the clerk to read the list of communications. When done he asked if anyone would like to have the communications read. Seeing no one he asked for a motion to approve the Communications , which was made by Councilman Sickels, seconded by Councilman Kistner and unanimously carried.

**BILLS:**

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the Clerk to read the Bills resolution. When done, he requested a motion to approve the resolution which was made by Councilwoman Ciocia, seconded by Councilman Bing, and carried with Councilman Hillman voting no.

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$2,329,973.33 specified in the schedule hereto annexed, have been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the accounts listed for payment of the claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the claims be paid and checks be issued on the funds and accounts indicated on the attached schedule.

**REPORTS:****Fire Department:**

The Fire Department held their monthly meeting last Thursday. They have been very busy not only in town but mutual aid as well. Assistant Chief Greco stepped up in the Chief's absence, as did, Gumbrecht, Hernandez and Taylor. Everyone is doing a great job. The veteran's and young guys are all stepping up.

**DPW:**

On Good Friday there was garbage left on the Boulevard. The DPW cleaned it up immediately.

**Finance:**

The current fund cash balance at March 31<sup>st</sup> is \$4,413,652. The entire balance is earning .10%. Cash disbursements for the month of March totaled \$4,384,178 of which \$2,603,857 was for local school taxes (59%), \$896,144 was for salaries (20%), and \$884,177 was for other expenses (21%).

- 2022 Budget hearing 5/10/22

- CFO funded Borough LOSAP contributions to be made to Borough Fire & EMS volunteers.
- Homestead Rebates were mailed to eligible taxpayers.
- Walter Avenue parking lot has been seal coated and lined. Signs have been ordered and lot should be open soon.
- Cash balances will increase as 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter tax bills are due 5/10/22

**LAND USE BOARD:**

Permit totals from March were \$16,493.00. Many new residential and commercial applications are being received, as well as permits for outdoor work.

The Land Use Board held a meeting April 6, 2022. A resolution was memorialized for approval of the Bulk Variances at 324 Bell Avenue. The application for Variances at 163-167 Kipp Avenue was withdrawn.

In response to Hurricane Ida, The Building Department continues to work with homeowners. Fees for permits relating to damage the storm caused have been waived.

In Property Maintenance, homeowners have been notified concerning the trash pickup schedule as well as spring outdoor property maintenance protocol.

**RECREATION:**

The Recreation committee meets regularly and they are continuing to plan for the reopening of the Youth Center. Summer Camp registration is open and day trips are being resumed. Travel softball registration will begin next week.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

The Senior Bus is currently used to provide transportation for our Senior Citizens, (age 62 and older) living in Hasbrouck Heights.

The bus travels to Shop-Rite on Wednesday and Stop N Shop on Friday of each week. During the weeks of 3/21/22 through 4/22/22 there was an average of 9 Senior Bus riders per week to Shop Rite and 6 per week to Stop and Shop.

The bus traveled to Paramus Park on Tuesday, April 12 with 9 riders and Walmart on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 with 7 riders.

To register, senior residents may reserve a seat by calling the DPW at 201-288-1072.

**LIBRARY:**

As of March, 2022 the total card holders were 7,314.

**Youth Services****PROGRAMS & EVENTS:****Book Buddies Craft and Storytime Starter**

Mondays, May 2- May 23

A PreK picture book suggestion will be emailed and a themed craft bag may be picked up during library hours. Best for ages 2-4

**Star Wars Day Storytime and Craft**

Wednesday, May 4 at 3:30; in-person ages 5 and up

May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you! Come join fellow padawans after school for a Storytime and Star Wars craft. (To-go crafts offered while supplies last) Registration is required for the in-person event.

**Fresh Air Storytime at Central Ave. Playground**

Wednesdays, May 11 & 25 @ 11am

Join us for Storytime, songs, and the amazing bubble machine in-person at the small playground across from the library off of Central Ave. Please bring a blanket, mat, or chair for your child to sit on. Program subject to cancellation in case of inclement weather. Best for toddlers-PreK and registration is limited.

**Little Artists Grab & Go: Paper Flower Wreath**

Friday, May 13/ Saturday, May 14

This month's craft is a paper flower wreath you can make at home. Pick up inside the library on Friday or Saturday. Best for grades K-5.

**Wednesday Workshop: Lava Lamp Experiment**

Wednesday, May 18, 3:30-4:00 pm, in person for ages 8 and up

Oil+water+chemical reaction= cool science! Come join us after school for a simple experiment and create our own lava lamps. Grades 2 and up. Registration is limited.

**Teen Craft-to-go: Plum Blossom Tree Craft**

Tuesday, May 24/Pick up from 2:00 – 8:00 pm

Stop by the library to grab a plum blossom tree craft-to-go bag on Tuesday between 2:00-8:00pm. Program limited to 15 participants, Grade 7 and up.

**Teen& Adult Cross Gen Craft: Calm Down Bottles**

Thursday, May 12 @ 6:30 pm

Cross Gen Crafts is an opportunity to create community across generational lines and create art in the process. Every session features a new craft, with supplies provided. In-person in the Large Meeting Room

**ADULT SERVICES:****Holistic Mindful Methods**

Monday, May 2, 3pm - Large Meeting Room

**Internet Genealogy: Using the Internet to Find Records**

Wednesday, May 11, 6:15-8:30pm – Large Meeting Room

**Saturday Concert: Nash East**

Saturday, May 14 @ 1:00 – 2:15pm – HH Senior Center

**From Buzz to Chirps and Flashes: Creating an Eco-friendly Garden**

Wednesday, May 18 – Large Meeting Room

Meet & Greet @ 5:30 PM Program starts @ 6:00 PM

**Crafts-to- Share Club**

Tuesday, May 10 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

In-person and zoom

**Adult Book Club**

May 24 - "Wish you Well" by David Baldacci

In –person and via zoom

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

- On Saturday April 30, 2022, DEA National take back will be held- Turn in unwanted, unused and expired medications between 10am-2pm at the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department, 248 Hamilton Ave.
- Friday, April 8, 2022 the HHPD provided security for the Aviator Relays at Depken Field. Congratulations to Coach Brady and all the athletes for a job well done.
- Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Troop 17, Eagle Scouts, Mario Gabriel Fanego, Brian James Gaffney and Shahil Voona were each presented and awarded with plaques for their Eagle Scout achievement and good citizenship by Hasbrouck Heights Police Captain Rinke, Officer in Charge.
- The Hasbrouck Heights Police Department is advising residents to remove key fobs from their vehicles and to lock their vehicles following an increase in auto thefts across the county.
- Hasbrouck Heights was ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest city in New Jersey. Thank you to our Police Officers and Community for keeping our Boro safe.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

During the month of March, the Health Inspector conducted 28 food inspections, 11 grease trap inspections and 4 complaints of various natures.

The Dept. of Vital Statistics issued 166 certified transcripts, recorded 8 resident deaths and six marriage licenses.

Upcoming Events:

- Suicide Prevention, Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Senior Room
- HeartSaver CPR Course, Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Senior Room
- Blood Drive, Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 3:00 pm in the Senior Room

**SOCIAL SERVICES:**

There were a total of 87 visitors to the Food Pantry from 3/28/22 through 4/25/22; an average of 17 patrons per week.

We would like to thank our Food Pantry Volunteers for organizing and stocking shelves, as well as packing bags and distributing the food on Monday mornings. We appreciate all their help.

Thank you to the residents and various organizations who continue to donate food and gift cards. Hasbrouck Heights is a strong community and it is comforting to know that we can count on our fellow residents for support during these uncertain times.

Donations to the food pantry are always needed. Items in need are pasta, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, snack items, toiletries, cup o soup and paper goods. Paper and plastic bags are also needed so we can redistribute the food.

Donations are accepted at the Borough Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 4:30pm.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor DeLorenzo is very happy that Hasbrouck Heights is the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest city in New Jersey. We are lucky that we have dedicated people here and the Police Department is an important factor but it also has to do with our community as a whole. We are making progress on the Walter Avenue parking lot. Our new IT Specialist, Vincent Gareffa has installed all the software and windows updates at Town Hall, Fire Dept. and DPW. We also have a new contract for a security program to protect us from Malware Bytes. We went from 17 Licenses to 27 and identified computers that were not protected properly. We have a new Cyber company we are going to be dealing with and will upgrade our protection. We got a \$40,000 quote down to \$4,000. We have software and other desktop computers we are working on. We plan on having a technology committee meeting in the next week or so. Our new tech will be at the May work session to update us.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

93. Authorizing the amendment to Resolution No. 80, dated 4/12/22, with a reduction in the amount of the check payable for the Tax Court Judgement for Block 26, Lot 1, 199 Boulevard

94. Authorizing Raffle licenses for Corpus Christi Church, PTSA Hasbrouck Heights, BPOE #1962

95. Authorizing Auto Dealer Licenses for certain Auto Dealers in the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the Clerk to read the Consent Agenda. When done, he requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilman Sickels and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

96. Authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-0001, Block 29, Lot 31

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the clerk to read Resolution No. 96 in full. When done he requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 96 which was made by Councilman Bing, seconded by Councilman Meli and unanimously approved.

**RESIGNATIONS:**

Angelo Roccamo from the HH DPW Effective 7/1/22  
Michael Ratkowski – retirement from HHFD  
Hipen Shah – Resignation from HHFD Ambulance Squad

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the Clerk to read the list of resignations. When done he asked for a motion to approve the resignations which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilwoman Ciocia and unanimously carried.

Mayor DeLorenzo wished them the very best on their retirement.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman Bing, seconded by Councilman Sickels and unanimously carried.

Mayor DeLorenzo invited the public to speak at this time. Seeing no one he made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilman Hillmann and unanimously carried.

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**  
**RESOLUTION NO.: 97**  
**Authorizing Executive Session**  
**Date: April 26, 2022**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public,  
and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this committee will reconvene,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights will go into closed session for the following reason as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law or State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any collective bargaining agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any matter involving the purchase, lease, sale or acquisition of real property with public funds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting safety and property of the public.

  X   Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation.

  X   Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual requests a public meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a special civic penalty.



Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, the minutes can be made public.

Mayor DeLorenzo announced they will be going into closed session at this time. He asked the clerk to read Resolution No. 97 in full. When done he requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 97 which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilwoman Ciocia and unanimously carried.

Mayor DeLorenzo asked Superintendent Bill Spindler to join them in closed session.

Mayor DeLorenzo asked for a motion to go back into the public session, which was made by Councilman Bing, seconded by Councilman Kistner and unanimously carried.

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 98**

**DATED: April 26, 2022**

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of the DPW Foreman, Angelo Roccamo, effective July 1, 2022, the Borough is in need of General Foreman coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that appointing Leonard Masucci, Jr. to position of General Foreman – Grade 1 is in the best interest of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Leonard Masucci, Jr. be appointed to the position of General Foreman – Grade 1, effective July 1, 2022.

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the clerk to read Resolution No. 98 in full. When done he requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 98 which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilwoman Ciocia and unanimously carried.

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 99**

**DATED: April 26, 2022**

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of the DPW Foreman, Angelo Roccamo, effective July 1, 2022, the Borough is in need of General Foreman coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that appointing Keith Brown to position of General Foreman – Grade 2 is in the best interest of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Keith Brown be appointed to the position of General Foreman – Grade 2, effective July 1, 2022.

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the clerk to read Resolution No. 99 in full. When done he requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 99 which was made by Councilman Kistner, seconded by Councilwoman Ciocia and unanimously carried.

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS  
COUNTY OF BERGEN, NJ  
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2507**

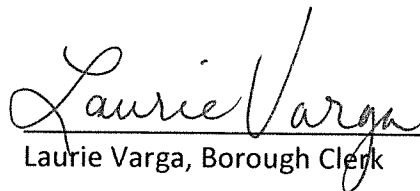
**NOTICE is hereby given that the following proposed Ordinance was introduced and 26<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2022, and final passage of that Ordinance will be considered at a meeting in the Municipal Building, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached, at which time and place all persons who may be interested**

**therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same.  
A copy of this ordinance may be obtained in the Borough Clerk's Office.  
Laurie Varga, Borough Clerk**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
TO FIX THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF  
HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2022"**

Mayor DeLorenzo asked the clerk to read Ordinance No. 2507 in full. When done he requested a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2507 which was made by Councilman Meli, seconded by Councilwoman Ciocia and unanimously carried.

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilwoman Ciocia, seconded by Councilman Sickels and unanimously carried.

  
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Laurie Varga, Borough Clerk