

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
RIDGEFIELD PARK
March 12, 2024
7:30 PM

Mayor Anlian announces that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record and the Star Ledger on December 29, 2023 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

This agenda is listed as a courtesy and attempt to inform the public of actions being considered by the Village Board of Commissioners. There may be additions and deletions prior to the Board taking final action. Any action may be taken at any meeting, which includes all Caucus and Regular sessions. The Commissioners reserve the right to conduct and/or attend any meetings presently scheduled for the rest of 2024 by a combination of electronic and/or in-person means. Meetings are open to the public.

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 27, 2024

PAYMENT OF BILLS

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

HEARING OF CITIZENS

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 2024-40 Award Professional Services Contract to Michael J. Edwards, Esq.
- 2024-41 Authorize Purchase of Two Police Vehicles through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System
- 2024-42 Authorize Appropriation Reserves Transfers
- 2024-43 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption
- 2024-44 Authorize Street Closure for Fundraiser – Garden Street
- 2024-45 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party – Highland Place
- 2024-46 Authorize Settlement Agreement between Village of Ridgefield Park and Foam Cycle

DISCUSSION

Proposal for Acoustical Services – Consolidated Packaging Group

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

- 2024-03 ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$20,000,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND FOR IMPROVMENTS FOR VETERANS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS AND RELATED AMENITIES FULLY FUNDED BY BERGEN COUNTY CONSENT ORDER

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

2024-47 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2024-40

RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO MICHAEL J. EDWARDS, ESQ. OF THE FIRM SURENIAN, EDWARDS & NORLAND, LLC, 311 BROADWAY, SUITE A, POINT PLEASANT, NJ 08742, TO SERVE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE VILLAGE'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACTION

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is desirous of hiring Special Counsel to assist the Village in connection with the Village's affordable housing and declaratory judgment action; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received a proposal from Michael J. Edwards, Esq., to perform all services necessary and appropriate in connection with same; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards' proposal sets forth the following rates: (a) \$200.00 per hour for all time spent by Jeffrey R. Surenian, Michael J. Edwards, Edward J. Buzak or Erik Nolan; (b) \$190.00 per hour for all time spent by Susan L. Crawford; (c) \$185.00 per hour for all time spent by any of the Firm's associates: William E. Olson, Christine M. Faustini, Nancy L. Holm, Jacqueline Gioioso or Keli Gallo (d) \$90.00 per hour for all paralegal work; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is satisfied that Mr. Edwards and his firm possess the requisite experience pertaining to such matters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(i), a professional services contract is exempt from public bidding requirements; and

WHEREAS, this contract has been awarded under the "alternative process" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A20.4 et seq. (the "Pay-to-Play Law"), and has been awarded to the contractor based upon the merits and abilities of the contractor to provide the services necessary; and

WHEREAS, because this contract has been awarded under the "alternative process," Mr. Edwards has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that neither he nor his firm has made any reportable contributions (\$300 or more) to a political or candidate committee in the Village of Ridgefield Park with the elected officials in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit said persons and entities from making any reportable contributions (\$300 or more) through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is desirous of awarding a contract to Michael J. Edwards, Esq., in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body, at the hourly rates set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the Village's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a contract is hereby awarded to Michael J. Edwards, Esq. to serve as Special Counsel in connection with the Village's Affordable Housing Litigation, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners and Village Clerk are hereby authorized and empowered to execute a contract consistent with the provisions and intent of this Resolution, subject to approval of same by the Village Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk shall publish notice of this contract award in the official newspaper of the Village, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

Resolution 2024-41

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Village of Ridgefield Park authorizes the Lease/Purchase of two police vehicles and equipment through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System under Identifier #47-CPCPS.

Resolution 2024-42

WHEREAS, The Village of Ridgefield Park has determined that certain budget lines require additional funds to meet the necessary expenses of various Departments; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services within the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-58 allows for the transfer of appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper offices are hereby authorized and instructed to make the attached Budget Transfers for Year 2024 from Appropriation Reserves which have excess funds within the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-58.

Account	From	To	Account
01-2030-26-3051-007	197,762.22		DPW GENERAL S/W
01-2030-25-2401-010	90,940.78		POLICE SW
01-2030-25-2404-001	27,000.00		METER ENFORCEMENT
01-2030-23-2322-101		194,977.25	WORKER COMP INSURANCE
01-2030-32-4652-029		85,548.55	SANITARY LANDFILL FEES
01-2030-28-3752-999		13,824.35	PARKS PLAZA O/E
01-2030-20-1212-133		10,000.00	VILLAGE CLERK OFFICE O/E
01-2030-21-1802-029		5,545.25	PLANNING BOARD
01-2030-26-3152-058		3,452.41	GARAGE & GENERAL O/E
01-2030-30-4262-998		2,355.19	CIVIC LIFE

Resolution 2024-43

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate No. 23-002 Block 24.04 Lot 1 60 Challenger Road, was redeemed by the owner Challenger 60 Owner C/O Bridge Fund,

And Whereas, payment was received in the amount of \$424,229.18 from the owner, Challenger 60 Owner C/O Bridge Fund

And Whereas, there was no premium on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 23-002

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector be, and hereby is, authorized to issue a check for the Lien Redemption amount of \$424,179.18 payable to the Lienholder:

ATCF II New Jersey LLC, Lumentum, LLC
PO Box 69239
Baltimore, MD 21264

Resolution 2024-44

WHEREAS, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, will hold their Annual Fish and Chips fundraiser on Friday, March 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 has requested permission for Garden Street to be closed to traffic and parking on Friday, March 29, 2024 between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 will notify all Garden Street residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the closing of Garden Street, from Brinkerhoff Street to Winant Avenue, from 3 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

Resolution 2024-45

WHEREAS, Natasha Suarez, 24 Highland Place, requested permission to hold a block party on July 4, 2024 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, she has requested permission to close Highland Place between Main Street and Bergen Avenue to traffic that day; and

WHEREAS, she must notify the residents on the block at least two weeks in advance of the event; and

WHEREAS, she has requested Saturday, July 6, 2024 as the rain date between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the closing of Highland Place between Main Street and Bergen Avenue from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on July 4, 2024.

Resolution 2024-46

WHEREAS, the Village of Ridgefield Park (the “Village”) is a Municipal Corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, and is the owner of real property located at 24 Industrial Avenue in the Village (hereinafter the “DPW Property”); and,

WHEREAS, the Village had received a grant from the County of Bergen to purchase a Styrofoam densifier, to be located at the DPW Property for residents of the Village and other municipalities throughout Bergen County to utilize; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Styrofoam densifier was placed in a standard cargo container for its storage and operation; and,

WHEREAS, on or about November 27, 2023, the Village was advised by an attorney representing Louis Troiano that the Village had violated his US Patent by placing the Styrofoam densifier in the aforementioned cargo container, even though each of these products are readily available without a patent; and,

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the legal and financial implications of the claims raised, the Board of Commissioners feel that it is in the best interest of the Village and its residents to equitably settle all of the claims and allegations raised in the aforementioned matter; and,

WHEREAS, a Settlement Agreement has been negotiated between the parties, wherein the Village will settle all claims raised by Louis Troiano for the sum of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) Dollars, and as part of the settlement, will receive a cargo container from Mr. Troiano that is better suited to house the Styrofoam densifier; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wish to resolve this dispute based upon the terms set forth in the aforementioned Settlement Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Village Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose—Account No. 01-2010-41-7900-001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Village of Ridgefield Park, that the Settlement Agreement negotiated between the Village of Ridgefield Park and Louis Troiano is hereby approved, subject to final review by the Village Attorney; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk, CFO and all other necessary Village officials are hereby authorized to issue any and all payments necessary to effectuate the terms in the aforementioned Settlement Agreement.

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

**ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$20,000,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERAN'S PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS AND RELATED
AMENITIES FULLY FUNDED BY BERGEN COUNTY CONSENT ORDER**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Village of Ridgefield Park (the "Village") entered into a Consent Order dated November 28, 2023, with the County of Bergen (the "County") whereby the County agreed to pay the Village the sum of \$20,000,000.00 for the sole and express purpose to construct new and improved athletic fields and other related amenities at Veterans Park; and

Section 2. that the capital improvement, meaning the improvements to Veteran's Park, is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made by the Village of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, and there is hereby appropriated therefor the sum of \$20,000,000.00 from funds provided by the consent order with the County.

Section 3. The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Village is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget by the Director, Division of Local Government services, are on file with the Village Clerk and are available for public inspection; and

Section 4. The period of usefulness of the capital projects are in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Village for this authorization.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.