

**ALPINE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 2017 @ 7:30 P.M.
Borough Hall - 100 Church Street**

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Council, Borough of Alpine, convened for this Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. in the Alpine Borough Hall. The Public Announcement was read and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the notice of this Regular Meeting held Wednesday, December 20, 2017 has met the requirements of the law by being published in The Record as part of the Annual Notice, posted on the bulletin board of the lobby in the Borough Hall and a copy filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. This meeting was recorded in its entirety.

ROLL CALL

Paul Tomasko, Mayor	Present	Vicki Frankel, Council President	Present
Michael Cacouris, Councilman	Present	Gayle Gerstein, Councilwoman	Absent
John Halbreich, Councilman	Present	Laurence Shadek, Councilman	Present
Arthur Frankel, Councilman	Present		

Staff Present on Dais: Borough Attorney Russ Huntington, Borough Engineer Gary Vander Veer, Deputy Borough Clerk Nancy Wehmann

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bank Of New Jersey Current Operating Acct \$3,284,252.12

A) **Resolution #189:12'2017: Authorizing the Transfer of 2017 Budget Appropriations: Transfer #2 OFFERED BY:** Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017,

WHEREAS, title 40A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides that should it become necessary during the last two months of the fiscal year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount claimed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may by Resolution setting forth the facts (adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof), transfer the amount of such excess of those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpine, the Borough Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2017 Budget Appropriations.

		<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Electricity	7-01-31-430-020	\$3,871.37	
Street Lighting	7-01-31-435-020		3,871.37
Suez Water	7-01-31-445-020	52.52	
Suez Water (Hydrant Service)			52.52
TOTAL		\$3,923.89	\$3,923.89

Vote: Ayes: Cacouris, V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #190:12'2017: Approval of Bills and Claims

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel
 at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 to approve the bills and claims, a copy of which are appended.

Vote: Ayes: Cacouris, V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #191:12'2017: Return of Bonds and Escrow

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel
 at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 to approve the return of the following bonds and escrow subject to review and approval by the Borough Engineer.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
121/6	Edwards, Mark & Suzanne	Escrow	\$1,450.00
71/16	Waldman, Kevin	Curb Bond	500.00
Closter	Rothman, Arthur	Curb bond	500.00
	240-246 Anderson Avenue		
30/7	Hussein, Amtul & Dilber	ZBA Escrow	2,000.00
22/2	Schwartz, Jeffrey & Iris	ZBA Escrow	663.22

Vote: Ayes: Cacouris, V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Tax Assessor's Report. Report on file in the Borough Clerk's Office.

MAYOR'S REPORT The Mayor reported on the following:

- Announce with sadness passing of former longtime Health Officer, Bill Galdi. He was highly esteemed and there was a massive outpouring at the services. We shall miss Bill but he won't be forgotten and we were fortunate to be able to know and work with him for all those years.
- Wide concerns with impacts of the new federal tax bill on NJ real estate values. It is not known how this will play out but it is being reported this could depress values although it is hoped Alpine would fare better, having the lowest tax rates of all 77 Bergen County municipalities, but no one is immune. There is also concern regarding the impact if Governor-elect Murphy carries through with the Millionaire's tax as far as our state remaining competitive and attracting and keeping businesses. We will keep attentive to these matters.
- In January Alpine becomes host for the Interboro Radio, a two year term inherited from Northvale. We all benefit from this program that keeps costs down.
- The Mayor and Council Reorganization meeting is January 3, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration Department No report.

Building Department Councilman Halbreich read the report's main statistics:

71 scheduled inspections, 5 tree permits, 1 soil moving application, and 5 zoning review applications. Balance of report on file.

Department of Public Works Councilman Frankel advised the report is on file.

Mayor Tomasko wished to note the following:

- DPW did a fine job with leaf pickup despite 3 snowstorms. Remaining leaves must be bagged or residents should make private arrangements with their landscaper.
- He attended a meeting of the Riverside Cooperative today. The Coop will be press the County to increase the hourly reimbursement rates to municipalities for

plowing (including sanding/salting) of County roads. The rates have not been raised in years.

- LED lights were installed in the Borough Hall and parking lot to reduce utility costs.

Fire Department Councilwoman had advised she could not attend. On her behalf Mayor Tomasko noted the following:

- As usual the Fire Department did a great job hosting Santa's visit to the Firehouse last Saturday from 10AM – 12 Noon which traditionally marks the start of Alpine's holiday season.
- Thanks to Councilman and Fireman Halbreich for the beautiful display of photographs in the Borough Hall lobby and hopefully, the residents will better appreciate the wonderful work our volunteer fire department does for us. When the alarm goes off thirty families get disturbed, even if the middle of the night.

Police Department Councilwoman Frankel reported 30 motor vehicle summonses issued. There were 6 motor vehicle accidents with 2 injuries. November mandated training included Active Shooter and Firearms Qualifications. The rest of the report is on file.

Resolution #192:12'2017: Accepting the Reports of the Standing Committees

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Shadek

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 to accept the reports of the Standing Committees.

Vote: Ayes: Cacouris, V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON'S REPORT None. The Mayor noted once again the school hosted a wonderful holiday concert last Thursday in the new auditorium. The band under the direction of new instructor Kathy Sireno was wonderful. The school's music program is excellent and just keeps getting better.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S REPORT Attorney Huntington wished everyone Happy Holidays.

The Mayor announced and congratulated Attorney Huntington who was recognized by his peers at the recent League of Municipalities convention.

[The NJ Institute of Local Government Attorneys conferred its 2017 Fred G. Stickel Memorial Award on Attorney Huntington at its Annual meeting in Atlantic City on November 16, 2017. This annual award is given to a member of the NJ bar who has demonstrated excellence in the field of public sector law and has contributed time and effort to advance the interests of municipal law.]

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT Mr. Vander Veer distributed his report and highlighted:

- Work complete on the Alpine School field. The sidewalk, lighting, sprinkler system, field work and sod are in place. Charles Hoffmann had a big hand in ensuring all work was well coordinated.
- 2017 Road Improvement Work. Site inspection today verifies all work completed. They should receive the final invoice and change order for next month to reflect an 8-9% reduction from the contract cost.
- Municipal Stormwater Permit regulations. He has reviewed in detail. He previously provided a letter to the governing body and will provide more detail at next month's meeting regarding specific requirements and timetable for implementation, particularly in regard to mandatory training.

Mayor Tomasko provided Mr. Vander Veer with the memo reflecting the proposed timetable for next year's Riverside Cooperative road improvement projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #193:12'2017 - # 194:12'2017

Resolution #193:12'2017: Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting November 20, 2017

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting November 20, 2017.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Abstain:** Cacouris **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #193:12'2017: Approval of Minutes Executive Session Meeting November 20, 2017

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 to approve minutes of the Executive Session Meeting November 20, 2017.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Abstain:** Cacouris **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL

Mayor Tomasko distributed the draft newsletter and requested comments by week's end.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Frankel, seconded by Councilman Shadek and approved by all to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wehmann, Deputy Borough Clerk