

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2024 @ 7:30 P.M.
BOROUGH HALL - 100 CHURCH STREET - ALPINE, NJ
(This meeting was recorded in its entirety)**

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Council, Borough of Alpine, convened for this Regular Meeting on December 18, 2024, at 7:30 P.M. in the Alpine Borough Hall. The Public Announcement was read: *In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the notice of this Regular meeting has met the requirements of the law by being e-mailed to The Record, posted on the bulletin board of the lobby in the Borough Hall and on the website and a copy filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.*

ROLL CALL

Paul H. Tomasko, Mayor	Present	Gayle Gerstein, Council President	Present
Steven Cohen, Councilman	Present	Vicki Frankel, Councilwoman	Absent
Arthur Frankel, Councilman	Present	Scott Bosworth, Councilman	Present
David Kupferschmid, Councilman	Absent		

Staff Present on Dais: Borough Engineer Perry Frenzel, Borough Attorney Levi Kool, Borough Clerk Stephanie Wehmann

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilwoman Gerstein shared that Mayor Tomasko was recently appointed the President of the New Jersey League of Municipalities. She thanked the Mayor for his efforts. Mayor Tomasko shared that at the League of Municipalities meeting in November Councilwoman Gerstein was elected into the New Jersey Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Mayor Tomasko opened for public comment. Hearing none, the meeting was closed to the public.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ConnectOne Bank Current Operating Account \$3,349,579.23

Resolution #204:12'2024 Authorizing the Transfer of 2024 Budget Appropriations (Transfer #2)

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cohen **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

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 2023 Budget Appropriations.

		<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Collection of Taxes SW	4-01-20-145-010	\$9,800.00	
Financial Administration SW	4-01-20-130-010		\$9,800.00
General Administration SW	4-01-20-120-010	\$10,000.00	
Electricity	4-01-31-430-020		\$10,000.00
Collector of Taxes SW	4-01-20-145-010	\$ 302.50	
Recreation	4-01-28-371-020		\$ 302.50
Collector of Taxes SW	4-01-20-145-010	\$ 450.00	
Crossing Guard SW	4-01-25-240-017		\$ 450.00

Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution #205:12'2024 Rescinding Budget Transfer Resolution for 2023 Budget

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cohen **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

Whereas, the CFO had asked the Mayor and Council to adopt a resolution for the Transfers of funds for the 2023 Budget at its November 18, 2024 meeting;

Whereas, the auditor has informed the CFO that he wants these funds to be a part of the January, 2025 temporary budget;

Whereas, the budget line items are listed below as stated in the November 18, 2024 resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpine, that the Resolution for the Transfer of funds for the 2023 Budget be is hereby rescinded.

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
General Administration S&W	3-01-20-120-010	\$2,418.57
PERS (Public Employees Retirement System)	3-01-36-471-000	\$ 1,703.98
PFRS (Police and Fire Retirement System)	3-01-36-475-000	\$ 594.59
Fire Department O/E Uniforms	3-01-25-265-028	\$ 120.00

Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution #206:12'2024 Approval of Bills and Claims

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cohen **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

At a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on December 18, 2024, to approve the bills and claims as outlined in the Finance Report in the amount of \$104,196.97.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid **MOTION APPROVED**

TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT on file

MAYOR'S REPORT The Mayor shared that articles are written about Alpine, even though Alpine does not seek it. Mayor Tomasko shared one article that had come to his attention. The article stated that Alpine residents are the happiest among the states most expensive areas, and 42nd nationally. The League convention was a good experience and offered many classes and other opportunities. The Mayor sadly shared the passing of two long-time residents: Joe Snow and Harold Davis, as well as retired career Police Officer, George Lindgren.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration Department no report

Building Department 67 Scheduled Inspections, 2 fence permits, 7 tree permits, 6 Zoning Review applications, and 3 miscellaneous applications

Department of Public Works report on file

Fire Department Santa was at the Fire House last Saturday. The report is on file.

Police Department The incident count for the month of November is 365. There were 19 Motor Vehicle/Borough Ordinance summonses issued, 5 for speeding on Route 9W and one on Closter Dock Road. There were 9 motor vehicle accidents investigated: 2 on Route 9W, 5 on Closter Dock Road, 1 on Anderson Avenue, and 1 other, resulting in 5 injuries. 33 Burglar alarms were received and 8 warnings issued for false alarms.

Resolution #195:11'2024: Accepting the Reports of the Standing Committees

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Cohen

At a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the borough of Alpine held on December 18, 2024, to accept the reports of the Standing Committees.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid

MOTION APPROVED

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON'S REPORT The Alpine School's Winter Concert is tonight. The School was ranked #1 in the County and #2 in the State.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S REPORT The Attorney congratulated the Mayor and Councilwoman Gerstein on their honors. He also spoke about the efficiency with which the Alpine government is run.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT The Engineer congratulated the Mayor and Councilwoman Gerstein as well.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS #208:12'2024 – 211:12'2024

Resolution #208:12'2024 Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting November 18, 2024

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein

SECONDED BY: Councilman Frankel

At the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on December 18, 2024, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2024.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #209:12'2024 Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement for the Maintenance and Repair of Vehicles by and between the Borough of Paramus and the Alpine Fire Department

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein

SECONDED BY: Councilman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Borough of Paramus and the Borough of Alpine seek to enter into an Interlocal Agreement wherein the Borough of Paramus will provide labor and maintenance services on Borough of Alpine Fire Department vehicles; and

WHEREAS, both of the parties to such an Agreement are authorized by law to enter into an agreement with one another to provide jointly for any lawful service to and for the residents of the respective municipalities pursuant to the provisions of the "Interlocal Services Act" N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of the Borough of Paramus and the Borough of Alpine recognize that the implementation of an Interlocal Agreement to provide labor and maintenance services at a cost as set forth in the agreement attached hereto is in the best interest of the taxpayers of the respective municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Alpine that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Borough of Paramus subject to the approval of the Alpine Borough Attorney;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement shall commence on January 1, 2025 and end on December 31, 2025 and shall automatically renew for a consecutive period of one year unless terminated by either of the parties by written notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the yearly term;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement shall take effect upon the execution of same and adoption of Resolutions by both parties as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Agreement be maintained on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Borough Clerk.

Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #210:12'2024 Renewal of Employee Assistance Program Agreement with the Bergen County Department of Health Services (One-Year Term, 2025)

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein

SECONDED BY: Councilman Frankel

These minutes have been approved by the Mayor and Council.

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on December 18, 2024
WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared-Services Act (USSA) found at N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 was passed in an effort to encourage and ease the sharing of services; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Borough of Alpine and its Health Department to provide state mandated health services of a technical and professional nature and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpine desires to contract for the furnishing of certain of these health services by the BCDHS to the Borough of Alpine, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-1 *et seq.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine as follows:
That the Municipal Clerk and the Mayor are hereby authorized and directed to execute the letter of agreement to renew the shared service agreements noted below for a one-year term (2025) with the Bergen County Department of Health Services for the year 2024 for the following "not to exceed" amounts:

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)* (\$22.25 per employee) \$623.00

Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution #211:12'2024 Authorizing Grantee – Bergen County Open Space Grant Award – 24 Robin Lane b:39/L:8

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine wish to enter into a grant agreement with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using an \$850,000.00 grant award from the 2024 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the acquisition of open space property in the project entitled "Vacant Land Acquisition, 24 Robin Lane" located in Block 39, Lot 8, on the tax maps of the Borough of Alpine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize the Mayor to be a signatory to the aforesaid grant agreement contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize the Mayor and/or Borough Clerk to sign all County of Bergen Payment Vouchers submitted in conjunction with the aforesaid project; and

This resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine at a meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

Vote: Ayes: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein **Absent:** V. Frankel, Kupferschmid **MOTION APPROVED**

The Mayor wished everyone happy holidays and reminded that there would be a menorah lighting on December 25 at the private residence of Bob McCaffrey.

Councilman Frankel thanked everyone for the wonderful and moving tribute and the posting of her picture on the Council Chambers wall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None/Not needed

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councilman Cohen, seconded by Councilwoman Gerstein and approved by all, this regular meeting of the Mayor and Council adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wehmann
Municipal Clerk