

**ALPINE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 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, February 23, 2022 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 Open Public Meetings Law, and the Governor's Emergency Declaration the notice of this regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:30 PM has met the requirements of the law by being published as part of the annual meeting notice in The Record, posted continuously on the bulletin board of the lobby of the Borough Hall and a copy filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.*

**ROLL CALL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF 2022**

Paul Tomasko, Mayor	Present	Vicki Frankel, Council President	Present
Gayle Gerstein, Councilwoman	Present	Laurence Shadek, Councilman	Present (telephonically)
Arthur Frankel, Councilman	Absent	Scott Bosworth, Councilman	Present
Steven Cohen, Councilman	Present		

**Staff Present on Dais:**

Levi Kool, Esq. of Huntington Bailey (on behalf of Borough Attorney Russ Huntington), Borough Engineer Perry Frenzel, Municipal Clerk Stephanie Wehmann

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** None.

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilman Cohen offered the report:

**ConnectOne Bank Current Operating Account** **\$4,357,980.80**

**Resolution #046:02'2022 Return of Bonds and Escrow**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Cohen

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to approve the bills and claims copies of which are appended.

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Scout Camp		Anomaly Entertainment	Film Permit # 117-22	\$5,000.00
76	4	Petrocelli, Robert	Driveway Escrow	\$157.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$5,157.50</b>

**VOTE: Ayes:** L. Shadek, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, S. Bosworth **Absent:** A. Frankel

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #047:02'2022: Emergency Appropriation to Increase the 2022 Temporary Budget (#2)**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Cohen

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022

**WHEREAS**, an emergency has arisen with respect to Current Fund appropriations; and

**WHEREAS**, no adequate provision has been made in the 2022 Temporary Budget for the aforesaid purpose, and R.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose, and,

**WHEREAS**, the total temporary emergency resolutions adopted in the year 2022 pursuant to the provision of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (R.S. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$920.99 and shall be provided for in the 2022 budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen, that in accordance with R.S. 40A:4-20, temporary emergency appropriations be and the same is hereby made for the following and that upon adoption, one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

**OPERATIONS: Within "Cap"**

Tax Assessment O/E	2-01-20-150-020	\$ 112.74
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 112.74</b>

**Vote (Roll): Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #048:02'2022: Authorizing the Transfer of 2021 Budget Appropriations Reserves (#1)**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Cohen

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

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*These minutes have been approved by the Mayor & Council.*

N.J.S.A 40A-59 Permits transfers of appropriation reserves from the preceding year to be made during the first three months of the following fiscal year. This section reads as follows:

- a. If during the first three months of any fiscal year, the amount of any appropriation reserve for the immediately preceding fiscal year is insufficient to pay the claims authorized or incurred during said preceding year which were chargeable to said appropriation, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation reserves over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill its purpose, the governing body may, by resolution adopt by not less than a 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to any appropriation reserve or an appropriation in the prior budget deemed to be insufficient to fulfill its purpose of for which no reserve was provided. 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 2021 Budget Reserve

Appropriations in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-59.

		<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Legal O/E	1-01-20-155-020	\$ 1,398.98	
Gasoline	1-01-31-460-020		\$ 1,398.98
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,398.98</b>	<b>\$ 1,398.98</b>

**Vote (Roll): Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #049:02'2022: Approval of Bills and Claims**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilman Cohen

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to approve the bills and claims copies of which are appended.

**VOTE: Ayes:** L. Shadek, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, S. Bosworth

**Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

Report on file in the Borough Clerk's Office.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor reported on the following:

- Next month's meeting will start a half hour earlier at 7:00PM and our auditor Jeffrey Bliss from Lerch, Vinci, Higgins LLP will provide the presentation on introducing the budget.
- The budget review process of each line item with CFO was completed.
- Lerch Higgins working on the annual financial statement and on schedule.
- Read certifications received from Bergen County Tax Administrator Robert Layton on monies Alpine would have received if all of the Palisades Interstate Park lands were taxable and that amount is \$4,376,883.60.
- Alpine was subject to different online news articles one of which featured "NJ Property Taxes: These 25 Towns Charged the Least on \$3 Million Dollar Homes" written by Asbury Park Press. Of these 25 towns, all but two are shore towns; Cape May County, Atlantic County, Ocean County, Monmouth County have little or no school system and expense, and Rockleigh which is not as low as Alpine.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Administration Department** No report.

**Building Department** Mayor Tomasko on behalf of Councilman Shadek reported 46 scheduled inspections, 4 tree permits, 3 soil moving applications, 4 zoning review applications, 7 miscellaneous permits. Balance of the report is on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

**Department of Public Works** Mr. Mayor Tomasko read the report, a copy of which is on file.

**Fire Department** Councilwoman Gerstein made motion to accept the following applications for membership to the Fire Department. Mr. Mayor Tomasko noted that Councilman Bosworth as Captain of the Fire Department recuses from voting and thanks him for his role in recruiting them.

**Resolution #050:02'2022: Approval of Firefighter Application- Daniel Schoeneborn**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to approve the application for **Daniel Schoeneborn** for Membership as a Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** S. Bosworth

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #051:02'2022: Approval of Junior Firefighter Application- Jeremy Schoeneborn**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to approve the application for **Jeremy Schoeneborn** for Membership as a Junior Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** S. Bosworth

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #052:02'2022: Approval of Firefighter Application- Luke Stein**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to approve the application for **Luke Stein** for Membership as a Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** S. Bosworth

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Police Department** Councilwoman Frankel reported 9 summonses issues, 7 MVA with no injuries; remainder of report on file.

**Resolution #053:02'2022: Accepting the Reports of the Standing Committees**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to accept the reports of the Standing Committees.

**VOTE: Ayes:** L. Shadek, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, S. Bosworth **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON'S REPORT**

Councilman Shadek noted nothing to report.

**BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Levi Kool, Esq. of Huntington Bailey (on behalf of Borough Attorney Russ Huntington) noted nothing to report.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Borough Engineer Perry Fenzel noted two items from the second page of his report:

- Widening intersection improvement of Closter Dock Road and Route 9W has been addressed based on the Bergen County Engineer's comments and plans will be submitted back to them for review.
- Submitted quantities estimate to Riverside co-op for inclusion to the 2022 program and included cushion in the estimate based on current affairs with gas prices. Last year, we paid \$71/ton for hot mixed asphalt. The average this year is \$92/ton thus a cushion in the estimate was included to cover the costs should we need to pay that amount.

Councilwoman Frankel inquired whether the estimate we received from Cambridge still stands. Mr. Frenzel advised that there is a line item for adjustment on any of these contracts for fuel and asphalt.

Mr. Frenzel confirmed to Mayor Tomasko that this should still fall within the grant amount we received from the state and keeping the town budget in mind.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None.

**NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS** Resolutions #054:02'2022 - #062:02'2022

**Resolution #054:02'2022: Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to accept the Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022.

**VOTE: Ayes:** L. Shadek, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, S. Bosworth **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #055:02'2022: Authorization of Bergen County Mosquito Spraying**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division has in the past conducted aerial spraying for mosquito larvae in the Borough of Alpine during mosquito breeding months in the best interests of the health and safety of the residents, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division is required by law to have on file a letter from the Borough of Alpine granting permission to perform this service, as needed, throughout the summer months, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk be authorized to write a letter granting the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division to provide said services for the 2022 season, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk notify the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division of the Mayor and Council stipulation that the Borough of Alpine be provided with **24-hour advance notice preceding any spraying activity** within the Borough.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #056:02'2022: Authorizing Sale of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (S-RECs)**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Alpine has certain photovoltaic equipment that generates electricity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Alpine has earned valuable Solar Renewable Energy Credits (S-RECs), in recognition of the clean energy produced by its photovoltaic equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, these S-RECs are not needed for public use and may therefore be sold as surplus personal property; and  
**WHEREAS**, S-RECs may be sold through an online auction process, pursuant to the Local Unit Technology Pilot Program and Study Act, P.L. 1002, c. 30 and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Division of Local Government Services, within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, has approved the use of Flett Exchange, LLC, to conduct online auctions of S-RECs;  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council authorizes the sale of its current S-RECs through an online auction conducted by Flett Exchange, LLC, and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough of Alpine shall publish notice of the impending sale of the S-RECs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 and a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services and the Board of Public Utilities.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #057:02'2022: Authorization for Borough Engineer to Submit Quantity Estimates for 2022 Riverside Cooperative Road Improvement Program**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022

**WHEREAS**, list of roads and quantity estimates were due to the Riverside Cooperative by February 18, 2022 for purposes of preparation of bid specifications as part of Alpine's 2022 Road Improvement Program; and  
**WHEREAS**, per the review of the Borough Engineer and DPW Superintendent, it is recommended that the following roads be included in the 2022 Road Improvement Program:

- **Forest Street**
- **Robin Lane (portion only - between Hillside Avenue & Graham Street)**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine that the list and quantity estimates submitted on February 18, 2022 on behalf of the Borough of Alpine be reaffirmed and retroactively authorized.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #058:02'2022: Recreation Sub-committee (Alpine Swim & Racquet Club) Appointment-Brandt Cybul**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on February 23, 2022 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of **Brandt Cybul** to the Alpine Swim & Racquet Club Recreation Subcommittee for the unexpired portion of a one (1)-year term, expiring December 31, 2022.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** S. Bosworth **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #059:02'2022: 2022 Alpine Swim Club Fees**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
**WHEREAS**, Borough Ordinance 754 provides that the Mayor and Council shall annually set the fees of the Alpine Swim & Racquet Club; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Alpine Swim and Racquet Club Subcommittee have recommended the following fee schedule for the 2022 season:

<b>2022 Fee Schedule for Alpine Swim &amp; Racquet Club</b>	
Alpine resident, single or family	\$ 375.00
Non-resident, family	\$ 950.00
Non-resident, single	\$ 600.00
Non-resident discount for payment before May 1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Applies to all non-resident memberships</i>	\$ (50.00)
Alpine resident discount for payment before May 1 <sup>st</sup>	None
Alpine resident nanny addition* <i>* Requires documentation of proof of employment</i>	\$ 150.00
Non-resident nanny addition* <i>*Requires documentation of proof of employment</i>	\$ 150.00
Guest Fees per person/per visit (over 2 years of age)* <i>* Limit: three visits per guest per season</i>	\$ 10.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine adopt same as the 2022 Fee Schedule for the Alpine Swim and Racquet Club.

*These minutes have been approved by the Mayor & Council.*

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** S. Bosworth

**MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #060:02'2022: Opposition to Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Fossil Fuel Power Plant**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

At this regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has proposed to build a gas-fired power plant ("Standby Power Generation Facility Project") adjacent to its sewage treatment plant in the Ironbound section of Newark, and

**WHEREAS**, for more than 150 years, residents of the Ironbound section of Newark and Newark have been burdened with an overwhelming number of environmentally hazardous factories and polluting facilities including the Port of Newark, major highways, the Newark Energy Center, the PVCS sewage plant, the Covanta Incinerator, and Newark Liberty International Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, last September in Newark, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law major state environmental justice legislation, S232, designed to protect vulnerable communities from polluting facilities, including gas-fired power plants such as this one proposed by PVSC<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term negative impact of polluted air and the poor health conditions it creates or aggravates contributed to the high death toll from COVID-19 and other pulmonary diseases in New Jersey and will continue to put these populations at increased risk, especially in minority communities<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, this project consists of three 28-mega-watt combustion turbine generators and two 2- mega-watt black start engine generators using fracked gas, among other equipment<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, although PVSC has declared these fracked gas generators to be "standby" in the event of an emergency resulting in loss of power to the sewage plant, PVSC plans to operate the gas plant an average of 24.7 hours each week<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, peaker plants (gas power plants that start and stop frequently) typically run for several hours each day and are exceptionally polluting, especially during startup, and disproportionately emit harmful air pollutants including ground-level ozone precursors like nitrogen oxides (NOx) and harmful particulates that contribute to poor local air quality and harm public health<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, PVSC will use \$150 million of taxpayer money to buy and install these generators<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, these generators will be located in a region including Essex, Hudson, Passaic, Union, and Bergen Counties, which have 3.5 million residents, making them among the most densely populated in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Northern New Jersey already suffers high levels of air pollution from eight fossil-fuel power plants which are among the largest sources of such pollution in New Jersey<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, PVSC estimates this power plant would emit at least 24 tons of GHG (greenhouse gases) as well as toxic co-pollutants including particulate matter and NOx *in regular non-emergency use* annually and significantly more in an emergency when outside power is cut<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, these increased emissions would be in direct opposition to the goals of the NJ Clean Energy Act, EO 28, EO 100, the 2019 Energy Master Plan, and New Jersey's EJ policies<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, gas infrastructure facilities emit pollutants including particulate matter, toxic chemicals such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and known carcinogens such as benzene and formaldehyde, and are known to increase the severity of asthma and other respiratory diseases<sup>10</sup>; and

<sup>1</sup> "Governor Murphy Signs Historic Environmental Justice Legislation." Office of the Governor of New Jersey. 18 September 2020. <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20200918a.shtml>. Accessed 4 June 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Wu, X., Nethery, R. C., Sabath, M. B., Braun, D. and Dominici, F. "Air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States: Strengths and limitations of an ecological regression analysis." *Science advances*, 6(45) eabd4049 2020. <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/45/eabd4049>. Accessed 22 June 2021.

<sup>3</sup> "Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Resiliency Program: Standby Power Generation Facility Project," Presentation to Ironbound Community, January 7, 2021, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> "Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission" announcement at their June 10, 2021 board meeting.

<sup>5</sup> Peak Coalition, "Dirty Energy, Big Money." May 2020. [https://8f997cf9-39a0-4cd7-b8b8-65190bb2551b.filesusr.com/ugd/f10969\\_9fa51ccc611145bf88f95a92dba57ebd.pdf](https://8f997cf9-39a0-4cd7-b8b8-65190bb2551b.filesusr.com/ugd/f10969_9fa51ccc611145bf88f95a92dba57ebd.pdf) Accessed 20 June 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Warren, Michael Sol, "N.J. weighs controversial plans for new industry, power plant in city plagued by dirty air," NJ.com. NJ Advance Media for NJ.com, updated March 21, 2021. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/03/nj-weighs-controversial-plans-for-new-industry-power-plant-in-city-plagued-by-dirty-air.html> Accessed 4 June 2021.

<sup>7</sup> The power plants are Bayonne Energy Center (Bayonne), Bergen Generating Station (Ridgefield), Kearny Generating Station (South Kearny), Newark Energy Center (Newark), Sewaren 7 (Woodbidge), Linden Generating Station (Linden), CPV Woodbridge (Woodbridge), and Cogen Technologies (Linden).

<sup>8</sup> Calculated from numbers announced at "Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission" June 10, 2021 board meeting.

<sup>9</sup> "New Jersey's Clean Energy Picture." New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 3 June 2020. <https://nj.gov/dep/aqes/opea-clean-energy.html>. Accessed 4 June 2021.

*These minutes have been approved by the Mayor & Council.*

**WHEREAS**, the American Lung Association "State of the Air 2021" report gives North Jersey counties grades as low as "F" for ground-level ozone air pollution and are out of compliance with EPA limits on ozone, but this proposed plant will be allowed to increase the concentration of ozone precursors (volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides) resulting in increased ground-level ozone in this region<sup>11</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the American Lung Association "State of the Air 2021" report shows Northern New Jersey already has significant populations with pediatric and adult asthma, COPD, and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, nervous disorders, and mental disorders which will be exacerbated by additional volumes of air pollution, and studies have shown ground-level ozone causes premature death<sup>12</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a Forbes magazine May 2020 article, mortality from air pollution in the United States was responsible for almost 200,000 deaths in 2015, and "the loss of life expectancy globally from air pollution surpasses that of HIV/AIDS, parasitic, vector-borne, and other infectious diseases by a large margin. It exceeds the [loss of life expectancy] due to all forms of violence by an order of magnitude and that of smoking by a third."<sup>13</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, hybrid microgrids using a combination of primarily renewable energy and storage technologies with backup emergency fossil fuel or tidal power (to be used only when the commercial grid is down) have been demonstrated to be cost-effective approaches when compared to all fossil fuel designs for microgrids whose purpose is to provide power when commercial power is not available<sup>14</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, renewable energy-based hybrid microgrids have potentially better resiliency (through multiple, synergistic sources of power) that may better serve the needs of PVSC while eliminating virtually all air pollution emissions<sup>15</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, PVSC does not appear to have ever seriously considered such a state-of-the-art hybrid microgrid solution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine does not oppose PVSC's efforts to improve the resiliency of its sewage treatment plant and recognizes that the jobs involved in this project, if not more, will still be created by using a renewable energy-based hybrid microgrid solution instead of a gas-fired power plant; and

**WHEREAS**, trade union workers in our state deserve economic expansion and infrastructure projects that don't negatively impact our public health and environment, and which are forward-looking and will develop needed skills and expertise in renewable energy technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine has a principal responsibility to protect the health and safety of its residents and businesses as well as to ensure the prudent spending of tax dollars paid by its citizens; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses opposes PVSC's proposed gas-burning power plant and supports the use of a renewable energy-based hybrid microgrid powered primarily by solar and battery storage for PVSC to achieve its resiliency goals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses supports a 50% reduction in GHGs by 2030 from 2005 levels and calls on NJDEP to establish rules to meet this target.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk shall forward this Resolution to Congressman Josh Gottheimer, Governor Phil Murphy, Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Shawn LaTourette, PVSC Executive Director Gregory A. Tramontozzi, State Senator Gordon M. Johnson, Assemblywoman Shama A. Haider, Assemblywoman Ellen J. Park and Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco, III.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadok **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #061:02'2022: Urging the Swift Passage of S-330 Which Restores Energy Tax Receipts**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

<sup>10</sup> Xiaopeng Liu, Lawrence Lessner, and David O. Carpenter, 1 June 2012. "Association between Residential Proximity to Fuel-Fired Power Plants and Hospitalization Rate for Respiratory Diseases." <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp.1104146>. Accessed 15 June 2021. <https://www.treehugger.com/the-good-and-bad-of-ozone-1204081>

<sup>11</sup> "State of the Air 2021." American Lung Association. <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/17c6cb6c-8a38-42a7-a3b0-6744011da370/sota-2021.pdf>, p. 108. Accessed 22 June 2021.

<sup>12</sup> "State of the Air 2021." American Lung Association. <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/17c6cb6c-8a38-42a7-a3b0-6744011da370/sota-2021.pdf>, p. 107. Accessed 22 June 2021.

<sup>13</sup> Pielke, Roger, "Every Day 10,000 People Die Due To Air Pollution From Fossil Fuels." *Forbes*, 10 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogerpielke/2020/03/10/every-day-10000-people-die-due-to-air-pollution-from-fossil-fuels/?sh=421b89e92b6a>. This article uses data from a study in *Cardiovascular Research*: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/45/eabd4049>. Both accessed 22 June 2021. Saury, Francois-Xavier and Tomlinson, Craig. "Hybrid Microgrids: The Time Is Now." Caterpillar Inc. Electric Power Division, February 2016. <https://cartermachinery.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CATMicrogridSolutionsWhitePaper.pdf>. Accessed 4 June 2021.

<sup>14</sup> Wood, Elisa. "Microgrid Benefits: Eight Ways a Microgrid Will Improve Your Operation...and the World." 18 April 2018. <https://microgridknowledge.com/microgrid-benefits-eight/>

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

**WHEREAS**, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties, and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

**WHEREAS**, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State's General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

**WHEREAS**, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the governing body of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to State Senator Gordon M. Johnson, Assemblywoman Shama A. Haider, Assemblywoman Ellen J. Park, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein, L. Shadek **Absent:** A. Frankel **MOTION APPROVED**

**Resolution #062:02'2022: Endorse Planning Board Approval of Soil Moving Permit with Waivers – 982 Closter Dock Road, B: 43/L: 6.01, 6.02 & 6.03**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 to accept to Endorse Planning Board Approval of Soil Moving Permit with Waivers – 982 Closter Dock Road, B: 43/L: 6.01, 6.02 & 6.03.

**WHEREAS**, Borough Ordinance 183-3D (5) lays down the procedure for review of an application for a soil movement permit in compliance with N.J.S.A. 40:20D-26b; and

**WHEREAS**, the application was approved by the Planning Board at a hearing held **January 25, 2022** and the Planning Board laid down their written recommendation to the Mayor and Council with respect to this application in a resolution approved at their regular meeting held on **February 22, 2022** (copy attached hereto); and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council has examined the application and the recommendations of the Planning Board and have considered the results of the public hearings before the Planning Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine find that the proposed soil movement and waivers will not create conditions inimical to the public health, welfare and safety, nor create any drainage, soil erosion or other conditions of danger; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council hereby approve said application subject to all conditions as laid out in the Planning Board's resolution of February 22, 2022.

**VOTE: Ayes:** S. Bosworth, S. Cohen, V. Frankel, G. Gerstein **Absent:** A. Frankel **Abstain:** L. Shadek **MOTION APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

and approved by all present to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday February 23, 2022 at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wehmann  
Municipal Clerk