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OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

DECEMBER 17, 2024

7:00 P.M.

OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
314 SOUTH MAIN STREET
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- RUSSELL RINALDI, PRESIDENT
- JAMES HOOVER, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ANDREW BUTLER
- JENNA JONES-SHOTWELL
- MICHAEL KOMENSKY
- MICHAEL LETTIERI
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- ROBERT LEGG, MAYOR

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Good evening,
2 many ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call
3 the meeting to order with the Pledge of
4 Allegiance. Then, also after the Pledge if
5 we can just remain for a quick moment of
6 silence and then I'll explain after.

7 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
8 recited.)

9 (A moment of silence was observed.)

10 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: That was a
11 moment of silence for Gary Propersi, who
12 passed away on December 6th of this year.
13 He was our current tax collector and I'm
14 going to have a couple minutes at the end of
15 the meeting just to say a few things about
16 him. So just to let public know that moment
17 of silence was for him and his family.
18 Thank you very much.

19 With that said, we're going to begin
20 with roll call.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

22 MS. SHOTWELL: Present.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

24 MR. KOMENSKY: Present.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

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MR. LETTIERI: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

MR. BUTLER: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato is absent. Mr. Hoover?

MR. HOOVER: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Here. Once again, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the regular meeting of the Old Forge Borough. Tonight is December 17, 2024. The purpose of our meeting will be to go through our housekeeping motions. We'll then go down and hear from our department heads, we'll hear from our chief of police, our assistant fire chief.

The chief of police has a sign-in sheet if anyone from the public would like to address us.

We'll then hear from our members of council and new business and our mayor.

With that said, we'll go to our first motion. That's going to be a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting.

1 ATTY. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion by

3 Councilman Butler.

4 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll second.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by

6 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell. On the

7 question? Public input? Roll call, please.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

9 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

11 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

13 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

15 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

17 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. The

20 second item is going to be a motion to

21 approve the treasurer's report. Please note

22 that this doesn't include the sewer account.

23 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that

24 motion.

25 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman

1 Komensky.

2 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
4 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
5 input? Roll call, please.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

7 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

9 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

11 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

13 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

15 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Third

18 item is motion to approve invoices for
19 payment. Once again, please note this does
20 not include the sewer account.

21 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
22 motion.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
24 Komensky.

25 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
2 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
3 input? Roll call, please.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?
5 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.
6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?
7 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.
8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?
9 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.
10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?
11 MR. BUTLER: Yes.
12 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?
13 MR. HOOVER: Yes.
14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?
15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Fourth
16 item is motion approve treasurer report for
17 the sewer department.

18 MR. BUTLER: I'll make that motion.
19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
20 Butler.
21 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.
22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
23 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
24 Public input? Roll call, please.
25 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

1 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

3 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

5 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

7 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

9 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Last

12 item under housekeeping will be a motion to
13 approve sewer department invoices for
14 payment.

15 MR. LETTIERI: I'll make that
16 motion.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
18 Lettieri.

19 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
21 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
22 input? Roll call, please.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

24 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

1 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

3 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

5 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

7 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. We'll go
10 to our first department head, DPW manager,
11 Joe Lenceski. Joe, anything for the
12 meeting?

13 MR. LENCESKI: Nothing for the
14 meeting.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anyone have
16 any questions for Joe?

17 MAYOR LEGG: Good report, Joe. Very
18 informative.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Thank you,
20 Joe. Code enforcement/zoning officer, Mike
21 Sokolowski, anything for the meeting?

22 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: No, nothing for the
23 meeting.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Does anybody
25 have any questions for Mike?

1 MR. BUTLER: The only thing I have
2 is that lady called me from Race Street.
3 There's a bear hibernating in her --

4 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Call the game
5 commission.

6 MR. BUTLER: I don't know what we're
7 going to do now.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: It's the
9 abandoned house that has the bear under the
10 porch. Right? Should we call the game
11 commission?

12 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: We have nothing to
13 do with that.

14 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Why don't we
15 do this for a few reasons. Not only because
16 we have knowledge of it --

17 CHIEF DUBERNAS: I'll make a phone
18 call tomorrow.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Call the game
20 commission, see how they want to handle it
21 because of the safety of the neighborhood
22 residents. It's behind the firehouse.

23 MR. BUTLER: Down in the hole.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Thank you,
25 Chief. Anyone else have any questions for

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Mike? Thanks, Mike.

Engineer, Dave Lopatka, he's out sick. Hope he feels better. We also have our borough manager out sick. Hope she feels better as well.

Police chief, Jason Dubernas, anything for the meeting?

CHIEF DUBERNAS: I have nothing.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Any members have any questions for the chief? Thank you, Chief.

Assistant fire chief, Bill Stull, good evening. Anything for the meeting?

MR. STULL: I'd like to ask council's permission for the fire department to use one of the light towers for this Sunday for the Santa run that we do every year. This year we moved to 4:00 to 7:00 at night. So it will be over at the fire station.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: You only need one?

MR. STULL: Just one.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yeah, absolutely. Right?

1 MR. KOMENSKY: Absolutely.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Anybody have
3 any questions for the assistant fire chief?
4 Thanks, Bill.

5 Attorney Rinaldi, anything for the
6 meeting?

7 ATTY. RINALDI: Nothing. You have
8 my report.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Does anybody
10 have any questions for the solicitor?

11 MR. KOMENSKY: Good luck tomorrow.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Best of luck
13 as well. Thanks, Bill. As I said, our
14 borough manager, Marylynn, is home sick.
15 Hope she feels better. We were in contact
16 with her tonight because we will be passing
17 our budget under new business after public
18 comment. We have to wrap everything up so
19 we make sure we get the budget passed
20 correctly.

21 Chief, anyone from the public on the
22 sign-in sheet?

23 CHIEF DUBERNAS: No, Mr. President.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We'll move
25 into new business. First item under new

1 business is going to be an ordinance
2 adopting the budget for 2025. At this time
3 the chair will entertain a motion to pass an
4 ordinance of the Old Forge Borough,
5 Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania adopting a
6 comprehensive budget for the calendar year
7 2025 appropriating specific funds estimated
8 to be required for the specific purposes of
9 municipal government hereinafter set forth
10 during the calendar year 2025.

11 Our general fund budget we'll be
12 passing tonight. In the general fund we
13 have \$3,912,842. Our total budget we'll be
14 passing tonight has \$8,450,119. This budget
15 will pass tonight with a zero percent tax
16 increase for the borough residents for the
17 year 2025.

18 At this time the chair will
19 entertain a motion to pass the budget for
20 2025.

21 MR. LETTIERI: I'll make that
22 motion.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the
24 floor by Councilman Lettieri.

25 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
2 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
3 input? Roll call, please.
4 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?
5 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.
6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?
7 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.
8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?
9 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.
10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?
11 MR. BUTLER: Yes.
12 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?
13 MR. HOOVER: Yes.
14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?
15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
16 number two under new business would be a
17 motion to approve an ordinance fixing and
18 levying taxes for 2025.
19 At this time the chair would
20 entertain a motion to approve the Old Forge
21 Borough, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
22 fixing and levying taxes for general borough
23 purposes for the calendar year 2025 and for
24 the purpose of creating and maintaining a
25 special fund to be used by the borough for

1 making permanent street improvements, to pay
2 contract prices for paving and other
3 permanent street improvements.

4 MR. HOOVER: I'll make that motion.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the
6 floor by Councilman Hoover.

7 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll second it.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
9 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell. On the
10 question? Public input? Roll call, please.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

12 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

14 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

16 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

18 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

20 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
23 number three, the chair would entertain a
24 motion to approve an ordinance allowing for
25 non-directional parking in the direction

1 opposing traffic on the portion of Franklin
2 and Bennett streets due to the uphill angle
3 of the streets in the borough of Old Forge.

4 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
6 Butler.

7 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
9 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
10 Public input? Roll call, please.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

12 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

14 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

16 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

18 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

20 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
23 number four, the chair would entertain a
24 motion to approve a resolution of the Old
25 Forge Borough authorizing the purchase of

1 radio equipment for use by the Old Forge
2 Borough Volunteer Fire Company. The amount
3 is \$98,950.

4 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
5 motion.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
7 Komensky.

8 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
10 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
11 input? Roll call, please.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

13 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

15 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

17 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

19 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

21 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
24 number four, the chair would entertain a
25 motion to approve a resolution of the Old

1 Forge borough authorizing the acceptance of
2 a 2025 Can Am Max Hex Cab 6LSC, Defender Max
3 side by side all terrain vehicle for use by
4 the Old Forge Borough Police Department.
5 The all terrain vehicle was donated by
6 Dunbar's Evergreen Landscaping.

7 MR. LETTIERI: I'll make that
8 motion.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the
10 floor by Councilman Lettieri.

11 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
13 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
14 input? Roll call, please.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

16 MS. SHOTWELL: No thank you.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

18 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

20 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

22 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

24 MR. HOOVER: Yes. This one, yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. I speak
2 for myself when I say a big thank you to Mr.
3 Dunbar and his family for the donation. I
4 know our department wanted one for some
5 time. Correct, Chief?

6 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yes.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: They're very
8 utilized throughout the whole world,
9 especially the country. Multiple police
10 departments, multiple fire departments,
11 multiple emergency services, our military.
12 I hope we never need it for emergency
13 services but I'm glad we do have it. Thank
14 you again to Mr. Dunbar.

15 MAYOR LEGG: I do want to do
16 something in recognition of that.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We should
18 definitely do something in recognition of
19 that. Once the borough manager is back and
20 the other members are back I would like to
21 invite Mr. Dunbar in, and if he would like
22 to bring in members of his family or whoever
23 and offer him our thanks for sure.

24 MR. HOOVER: Did we do that for
25 everybody before?

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: This is the
2 first time -- Bill, correct me if I'm wrong.
3 This is the first time you had us do this
4 for any donations to the borough of Old
5 Forge?

6 ATTY. RINALDI: I don't remember. I
7 just remember some people coming here
8 donating stuff. One woman, somebody died
9 and she donated. That's off the top of my
10 head.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We've had
12 multiple things donated to the borough of
13 Old Forge and this is the first time that
14 I'm sitting here in 16 years we've ever done
15 it this way. We should always do it this
16 way. We should definitely be transparent to
17 the public. We should let the public know.
18 We should bring the people in, like the
19 mayor said, and we should recognize them,
20 thank them for it. I think this is a great
21 process. I think this is the correct way to
22 handle this. So I agree, we should
23 definitely do this --

24 MR. HOOVER: We were supposed to
25 have the girls' softball team here and we

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never did that either.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Well, we were supposed to have a few people here that we never got back in touch with. Whoever at this table would like to bring anybody in for any type of recognition, thank you, congratulate them for their record, I'm all for it. I think we should bring as many people in for whatever recognition that they deserve in this town.

MR. HOOVER: We're still waiting on the police vehicle.

MR. KOMENSKY: Jimmy, we did have that conversation, prior to you getting here, about having some people in January. Probably forgot to tell you.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We talked about bringing in the Snow Forge committee for their ten year anniversary. Then we talked about bringing in -- we had three coaches this year in the borough of Old Forge who all got coach of the year. John Mucciolo, the high school soccer team. We have Coach Heather Revello of the girls high school soccer team, and Coach Pat Revello of

1 the girls high school softball team. Three
2 coaches in the borough of Old Forge all got
3 coach of the year. We talked about bringing
4 them in as well.

5 But whenever anybody at this table
6 would like to speak out and ask to bring in
7 here I'm all for it. Especially if they're
8 doing good in the borough, they're doing
9 good things for the borough, good things for
10 the kids, the community. For anything that
11 has to do with Old Forge that is good let's
12 bring them in and let's recognize them,
13 let's thank them. Let's ask the mayor to
14 give them proclamations.

15 MAYOR LEGG: I will have one next
16 year, in the new year.

17 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Thank you,
18 Mayor. Anything on that motion before we
19 move forward?

20 These next items, there's four of
21 them. We're only going to add them to the
22 agenda, and then after that we'll start with
23 number seven and we'll vote if they're going
24 to pass or not.

25 So item number seven -- six is going

1 to be a resolution for two grants for the
2 borough of Old Forge. First one is going to
3 be a Main Street Matters grant. That's a
4 motion to appoint Total Grant Services --
5 that is the company we hired back in
6 August -- on behalf of the Old Forge Borough
7 to write out a grant for the Drake's Lane
8 project.

9 MR. BUTLER: I'll make that motion.

10 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the
11 floor by Councilman Butler.

12 MR. HOOVER: I'll second it.

13 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
14 Councilman Hoover. On the question? Public
15 input? Roll call, please.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

17 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

19 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

21 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

23 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

25 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. The
3 second motion is going to be a motion to
4 approve and authorize the borough manager
5 for the LSA statewide grant for the Miles
6 Street park in the amount of \$475,000.

7 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll make that
8 motion.

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion by
10 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell.

11 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

12 MR. KOMENSKY: Seconded by
13 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
14 input? Roll call, please.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

16 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

18 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

20 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

22 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

24 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. To
2 reiterate, the next four we're going to add
3 to the agenda and then we'll put them
4 starting at 11 for passage or not.

5 Item number seven -- this is just to
6 add. It's going to be to authorize the
7 borough manager to advertise for
8 applications for a tax collector for the Old
9 Forge Borough.

10 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
11 motion.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
13 Komensky.

14 MR. BUTLER: I'll second.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
16 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
17 input? Roll call, please.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

19 MS. SHOTWELL: With regret.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

21 MR. KOMENSKY: With regret.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

23 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

25 MR. BUTLER: With regret.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

2 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
5 number eight is going to be a motion to
6 authorize the solicitor to draft a
7 resolution for two safe zones in the parking
8 lot of the Old Forge Borough Building
9 opposite of the police station. We
10 already -- just for the public's knowledge,
11 we passed this a year ago. We only passed a
12 motion. We never had a resolution drafted.
13 So we want to add this to the agenda so we
14 can have the solicitor draft a resolution so
15 we can vote on it for our next meeting and
16 make it official.

17 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

18 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
19 Butler.

20 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second.

21 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
22 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?
23 Public input? Roll call, please.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

25 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?
2 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.
3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?
4 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.
5 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?
6 MR. BUTLER: Yes.
7 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?
8 MR. HOOVER: Yes.
9 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?
10 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
11 number nine is going to be a motion
12 authorizing the borough manager to purchase
13 the correct equipment used for those two
14 safe spots. As of right now she said she
15 needs one regular camera and one LPR camera.
16 That's a license plate reader camera so when
17 the cars pull in.
18 MR. BUTLER: I'll make that motion.
19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
20 Butler.
21 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.
22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
23 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
24 Public input? Roll call, please.
25 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

1 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

3 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

5 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

7 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

9 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item

12 number ten is going to be a motion to add to

13 the agenda authorizing the borough manager

14 to advertise for a special meeting on

15 January 6, 2025, and the ad should read that

16 we are accepting applications for an Old

17 Forge Borough tax collector for the year

18 2025, and at that night, after the

19 interviews, we will be appointing a tax

20 collector.

21 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll make that

22 motion.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By

24 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell.

25 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
2 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
3 Public input? Roll call, please.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

5 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

7 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

9 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

11 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

13 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. The next
16 four motions will be, now, to either approve
17 or not approve.

18 Item number 11 will be a motion to
19 approve the borough manager to advertise for
20 a tax collector for the Old Forge Borough
21 for the year 2025.

22 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that
23 motion.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
25 Komensky.

1 MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
3 Councilman Butler. On the question? Public
4 input? Roll call, please.

5 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

6 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

7 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

8 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

9 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

10 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

12 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

14 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
17 number 12 is going to be a motion to approve
18 the solicitor to draft a resolution for the
19 two safe spots in Old Forge Borough located
20 in the Old Forge Borough parking lot, by the
21 police station.

22 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

23 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
24 Butler.

25 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
2 Councilman Komensky. On the question?
3 Public input?

4 CHIEF DUBERNAS: It's the first two
5 spots as soon as you come in. We'll have
6 them marked.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Whatever spot
8 you and the chief of police decide are the
9 best and the safest, I'm good with his
10 choice. Everybody as well? All right. On
11 the question? Public input? Roll call,
12 please.

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

14 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

16 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

18 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

20 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

22 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item
25 number 13 will be a motion to approve the

1 borough manager to purchase the necessary
2 equipment for those two safe spots.

3 MR. BUTLER: I'll make the motion.

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman
5 Butler.

6 MR. KOMENSKY: I'll second it.

7 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
8 Councilman Komensky. On the question? Joe,
9 the only thing you're going to need to do
10 for those safe spots would be two signs --
11 two poles, two signs. Correct?

12 MR. LENCESKI: Yes. I'll probably
13 drive them into the back side of the wall.

14 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Quick
15 question. With the signs up and the cars
16 parked in the back will the signs block
17 anything on the car? Will the pole and the
18 camera block the license plate?

19 CHIEF DUBERNAS: No, the camera's
20 going to be on the building. The
21 elevation's high enough.

22 MR. BUTLER: Put it right on the
23 wall. That would be better.

24 CHIEF DUBERNAS: And paint the
25 block.

1 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Those spots
2 will always have to be left open in case
3 someone comes at any time.

4 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I had two people
5 today that were down the back.

6 MR. RUSSEL RINALDI: That's why I
7 think it's a good idea that council decided
8 to do it. It creates a safe spot for them.

9 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Our cameras don't
10 show all the way to the dumpster area.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Whatever you
12 think is going to be the best and safest. I
13 know I'll be okay with it and I'm sure the
14 rest of the board is as well. Public input?
15 Roll call, please.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

17 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

19 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

21 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

23 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

25 MR. HOOVER: Yes.

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ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. Item number 14 is a motion to approve the special meeting for the borough manager to advertise for January 6, 2025 to take applications for the tax collector and appoint at that meeting after interviews are conducted.

MR. KOMENSKY: I'll make that motion.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By Councilman Komensky.

MR. BUTLER: I'll second it.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by Councilman Butler. On the question? Public input? Roll call, please.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

MR. BUTLER: Yes.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

MR. HOOVER: Yes.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. At this
3 time the chair has no more items. Before we
4 go down the table do any members have any
5 items for new business?

6 MR. HOOVER: I do. There's a letter
7 that was written and was given to the
8 borough last month. It was supposed to be
9 read last month and it wasn't. The
10 particular person asked me today to make
11 sure it's on the agenda for tonight because
12 she wants it read. Everybody knows what the
13 letter reads.

14 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I didn't see
15 the letter.

16 MR. HOOVER: She wants to know why
17 this letter isn't being read at tonight's
18 meeting.

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: What's the
20 letter?

21 MR. HOOVER: Her resignation letter.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I didn't see
23 any. Where is it?

24 MR. HOOVER: Marylynn has it
25 someplace. I'm just relaying the message.

1 Make sure it's on the agenda. It's not.

2 MS. SHOTWELL: Why wasn't it?

3 MR. HOOVER: I don't know.

4 MR. LETTIERI: Who resigned?

5 MR. HOOVER: Michelle. She handed
6 the letter in last month. She said make
7 sure it's on the agenda tonight.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: This is the
9 first time I'm hearing of a letter. Should
10 we adjourn into a session, call Marylynn,
11 see if she has the letter somewhere?

12 MR. HOOVER: She doesn't want it to
13 go to the new year.

14 MS. SHOTWELL: Well, if she wants it
15 added to the agenda for a motion.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: She's not
17 here. Bill, legally she's not here to speak
18 of her sound mind to say she wants to
19 resign.

20 MS. SHOTWELL: She submitted a
21 letter. That's her intention.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: You would just
23 accept the resignation. You have 30 days to
24 appoint.

25 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: But we would

1 need the letter. At this time the chair
2 would entertain a motion to break into a
3 brief executive.

4 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll make that
5 motion.

6 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: By
7 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell. All in favor?

8 (Unanimous.)

9 (A brief recess was taken at this
10 time.)

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Once again,
12 ladies and gentlemen, we're back in session.
13 We called our borough manager. She
14 authorized Sandy, the executive secretary,
15 to go into her office. There was a letter
16 in there. The letter isn't even opened.
17 For the public, I'll open it now and then
18 we'll read it. If that is Councilwoman
19 Avvisato's wishes we'll add it to the agenda
20 for her.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: You can accept it at
22 the next meeting or this one.

23 MR. HOOVER: As soon as you can.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I'll read the
25 letter. I'll read it twice just so we're

1 aware. "Dear Borough Manager, members of
2 council and residents of Old Forge. I'm
3 writing to announce my resignation from the
4 Old Forge Council effective 1/1/25. Due to
5 the higher demand and changes in my job it
6 makes it impossible to continue to devote my
7 time on council.

8 I am forever grateful for the
9 opportunity to serve on council and to work
10 with such a great group of people. I will
11 definitely miss you all since you were a big
12 part of my life for many years.

13 God bless. Michelle Petrini
14 Avvisato."

15 According to this letter, Bill, it
16 seems like she would want it done tonight.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: Well, it's effective
18 1/1, so you would accept it. You can accept
19 it at your next meeting.

20 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Which would be
21 the special meeting? If we accept it
22 tonight we have 30 days from tonight --

23 ATTY. RINALDI: From the 1st.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilman
25 Hoover said she told him she wants it

1 accepted tonight.

2 MR. HOOVER: Yeah.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Then I'm going
4 to enter it tonight and we'll fulfill
5 Ms. Avvisato's wishes.

6 Item number 15 is going to be a
7 motion to add the letter of resignation by
8 Councilwoman Michelle Petrini Avvisato.
9 This is just to add.

10 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll make that
11 motion.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the
13 floor by Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell.

14 MR. HOOVER: I'll second it.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by
16 Councilman Hoover. On the question? Public
17 comment? Roll call, please.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

19 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

21 MR. KOMENSKY: With regret.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

23 MR. LETTIERI: Yes.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

25 MR. BUTLER: With regret.

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

2 MR. HOOVER: No.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

4 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Yes. So item

5 number 16 will be a motion to accept the

6 resignation letter from Councilwoman

7 Michelle Petrini Avvisato effective January

8 1, 2025. This will be a motion to accept

9 Councilwoman Avvisato's resignation letter.

10 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll make that motion

11 with regret.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion on the

13 floor by Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell.

14 MR. LETTIERI: I'll second.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Seconded by

16 Councilman Lettieri. On the question?

17 Public comment? Roll call, please.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell?

19 MS. SHOTWELL: Yes.

20 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky?

21 MR. KOMENSKY: No.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Lettieri?

23 MR. LETTIERI: Yes. I respect her

24 decision. Yes.

25 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler?

1 MR. BUTLER: No.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Hoover?

3 MR. HOOVER: I respect her decision.
4 I don't like it, I didn't want to add it to
5 the agenda, but I respect her position. I
6 understand where she's coming from. I'm
7 going to have to say yes this time.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi?

9 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I also respect
10 her decision if that's what she chooses and
11 that's her wishes. It's with terrible
12 regret. I won't go into it now. There's so
13 much I have to say. I'd like her to come in
14 and formally be here so we can offer, like,
15 our good-byes to her in public. So I'm
16 going to save all my comments because I'm
17 going to have a lot. So I'm going to save
18 them until then. Regrettably, yes, I will
19 respect her wishes.

20 Before we go down the table, do any
21 of the members have any other items under
22 new business?

23 Okay. With that said, we'll go down
24 the table. First, Mayor Legg.

25 MAYOR LEGG: I think it was nice

1 that you had a moment of silence for our tax
2 collector, Gary Propersi. I, like the rest
3 of you, know him for a long time. I think
4 he did a great job and I'm going to miss
5 seeing him around here.

6 I'd just like to wish everyone a
7 very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
8 Let's hope '25 is a site better than '24.
9 With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you. That's
10 all.

11 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Councilwoman
12 Jones-Shotwell?

13 MS. SHOTWELL: I'll try to be brief.
14 Of course, my sympathies to Gary's family.
15 He was one of a kind and he'll be missed.

16 Happy holidays to everyone and their
17 families. And thank you again to everyone
18 in this room who assisted with Snow Forge
19 last weekend. It was certainly our biggest
20 crowd and our best success, and that is
21 because of the help of a lot of people in
22 this room. So thank you all.

23 MR. KOMENSKY: I'd also like to echo
24 some of the comments that were already made.
25 To the Snow Forge committee, ten years. I

1 remember when it was a thought and there
2 was, like, nobody on the Main Street the
3 first year. To see the people on Sunday was
4 just, like, unbelievable. I couldn't
5 believe it.

6 So to that, to the DPW, the zoning,
7 police, fire, the administration and staff,
8 thank you for everything everybody did. It
9 was just a great day and it worked out good.

10 Gary, we can all talk about Gary for
11 weeks, but I think we're all eternally
12 grateful for having known him.

13 On the budget, which was really
14 tough, I want to thank Marylynn and all the
15 council members for working together to pass
16 a no tax increase budget for the residents.

17 The last thing is on behalf of
18 myself and my family I would like to wish
19 everybody a very happy, healthy holiday, a
20 merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

21 MR. LETTIERI: Thoughts and prayers
22 for Gary and his family. Merry Christmas to
23 everybody, and I'd like to say I know we had
24 a lot of discussion about the ATV, the side
25 by side. I think it's a huge asset to the

1 borough. I think it was a nice donation. I
2 think we ended up doing it correctly by
3 putting it in. The public knows it. But I
4 think it is a nice vehicle and I know other
5 places that have it. So like I said, if we
6 need to change the process, which is very
7 hard to do with a donation like that, but
8 that's all I got. Merry Christmas,
9 everybody.

10 MR. BUTLER: Just condolences to
11 Gary's family. I know his sister very well.
12 She was a mess when I was talking to her.

13 Also, accolades to the Snow Forge
14 committee. They did another stellar job
15 with Snow Forge. There were a lot of people
16 there. Special thanks to the DPW and the
17 police for their help with Snow Forge and
18 the other things around town, and just wish
19 everybody a merry Christmas.

20 MR. HOOVER: Sympathies to Gary
21 Propersi's family. I also want to thank
22 DPW, police and the office personnel for a
23 good year. We can't do it without you guys.
24 Joe, we'd be lost without you guys. Send it
25 forward to the DPW guys, too. They did a

1 great job. The policemen did a great job.

2 Snow Forge, I can't say enough. It
3 was great. It was a great day. Merry
4 Christmas and happy New Year to everybody.
5 Make sure next year is going to be a good
6 year. We'll work together, hopefully we'll
7 have no budget increase next year.

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Thank you for
9 your comments. I know we already went to
10 your report, attorney Rinaldi. Anything
11 before we adjourn?

12 ATTY. RINALDI: No.

13 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I have a few
14 things to reiterate. Number one would be
15 that Gary Propersi, just so the public knows
16 and we're all aware, Gary served as a
17 councilman for the Old Forge Borough in the
18 '90s. He was also the Lackawanna County tax
19 claim director before he was the borough tax
20 collector. He was currently serving I want
21 to say his 20th year here. He had one more
22 year left, which would have been 2025. That
23 would have ended his fifth term, and I'm
24 sure he would have reran again.

25 So condolences to Gary and his

1 family. He did a great job for the borough,
2 he did a great job for the residents. He
3 made accommodations when he had to, you
4 know, as far as, like, he went to peoples'
5 houses, they came to his house. I mean,
6 hoping -- and I'm sure we will. I hope
7 somebody good runs.

8 But hopefully that next person is
9 just like Gary. Gary was a different human
10 being. Big heart, big soul, big smile. I
11 remember those cheeks. He was a great guy
12 and I know we're all going to miss him. I
13 know I'm going to miss him, too.

14 Joe, as always, I know you did it
15 along with the chief. Thanks for putting up
16 the black cloth for Gary. We put it on his
17 door tonight. Thanks for honoring him like
18 that for us as well and for the borough.

19 Secondly, to echo off of that, we
20 spoke to the borough manager. The taxes
21 right now, just for the public's
22 knowledge -- and she's going to put it on
23 her website -- all taxes can be paid at
24 People's Security Bank in Old Forge. Also,
25 they can be paid here, too. If they come

1 here, Marylynn told me that her and the
2 office secretaries will time stamp it,
3 everything. So for this year, as long as
4 everything is brought in before the ending
5 of the year no one will be charged any late
6 penalties as long as they're time stamped
7 before December 31, 2024. But for the
8 public's knowledge -- and she's going to put
9 it on the website -- the possible best bet
10 now would be to pay your taxes at the bank
11 because we don't know how Gary's office is,
12 how his system is.

13 But we do have a woman coming down
14 who is the -- Bill, correct me. The deputy
15 tax collector, Debra. She offered to come
16 down and she offered to help us in the next
17 few weeks and help us get the office up and
18 running again. Also she said she will stay
19 on for a little bit and help him or her
20 through it to get 2025 going in the right
21 direction as far as our taxes.

22 My second note, just so the public
23 is made aware, I asked Joe not to put it in
24 the report. Mr. Dunbar, from Dunbar's
25 Evergreen Landscaping, donated another UTV

1 today to the DPW recreation department. He
2 had one of his employees drop it off at the
3 DPW grounds. He contacted the borough
4 manager, she contacted us. Same process
5 will be handled with this one as well.
6 Can't be touched or driven until it's
7 approved by council. Again, we'll reach out
8 to Mr. Dunbar and we'll ask him to come in
9 because Bill will draft another resolution.
10 Whether it's for Mr. Dunbar or anybody, as
11 we stated and the mayor asked and also all
12 the members were in agreement to handle
13 donations differently moving forward. So
14 this will be our test and I'm sure we'll
15 pass.

16 Third, to the Snow Forge committee,
17 I know Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell is one of
18 the nine members along with Marylynn
19 Bartoletti, they do a great job every year.
20 Ten years. I know we said it three times to
21 bring them in and we should. I said before
22 the meeting, I as one of the members -- and
23 I can only speak for myself. We should have
24 brought them in every year to give them a
25 little recognition, give them a little good

1 publicity and promotion for them for all
2 their hard work because they do do a
3 fantastic job not only for us but also for
4 neighboring communities. We have thousands
5 and thousands. As we said, this was a
6 monster turnout this year. The weather was
7 great, everything was on point. So we
8 should and we will bring them in. We would
9 like to acknowledge them. The mayor will
10 give them a proclamation or a letter. Maybe
11 even, if council's okay with it or the
12 mayor, if we would make -- I know they hold
13 their event on the first or second Sunday in
14 December. Maybe we can make that Sunday
15 Snow Forge Day or something for the whole
16 year.

17 Fourth is to our department heads.
18 I'll start right at Joe. Joe, DPW manager,
19 his crew, all of our DPW workers, great job
20 throughout the year. You guys do an amazing
21 job for the borough and the residents, for
22 us. You're always out whenever we need you.
23 You're always doing whatever we ask. You
24 have the department running extremely well,
25 you had it running extremely well.

1 Everybody's in really good uniform over
2 there. Great job. Thank you for your hard
3 work and pass it on to the guys from all of
4 us.

5 Mike Sokolowski, first year as code
6 enforcement/zoning officer, great job.
7 Thank you for all the help you do throughout
8 the year. I know you do a lot of extra
9 stuff as well with, as I said, our DPW
10 manager and the department. Look forward
11 for another year for you here. If you need
12 anything from us let us know. But great job
13 for all your stuff throughout the year.

14 Chief, to you and the department
15 great job as well. Thank you for all your
16 help, work, dedication throughout the year.
17 Please pass it on to the department for us
18 and let them know anything they need,
19 anything you need we're always here for you.

20 Assistant fire chief, Bill Stull,
21 great job to you, Chief Tagliaterra, all the
22 men and women of the volunteer fire
23 department for everything you do for the
24 borough year in and year out for free.
25 Volunteering your own lives to save others.

1 It's something that I could probably never
2 do, to run into a building burning building,
3 falling over to get somebody you don't know
4 to save their life. Amazing. Thank you for
5 your service. Please pass it on to the
6 entire department.

7 Marylynn isn't here. I know we
8 always make sure that we give her some
9 praise throughout the whole year, but also
10 at this time. Passed the end of the season
11 budget. We really had a lot of crunching
12 going on this year. The finance
13 committee -- me, Councilman Hoover,
14 Councilman Komensky -- along with different
15 members, we had meetings throughout the
16 whole past two months. It takes a lot of
17 work to do this.

18 But I will be the first to say this,
19 I really do like .105 percent along with the
20 rest of these guys and women, but Marylynn
21 does 99.5 percent of it. She does a great
22 job, she's been doing a great job. She's
23 been here since 2005. Our borough taxes
24 have been raised two times, only two, in the
25 past 19 years. One mill in '08, 1.15 mills

1 in '23. That's an amazing accomplishment.
2 Credit goes to the members throughout the
3 year, most of it goes to Marylynn. So I
4 thank her for her hard work throughout the
5 year and I look forward to her being here as
6 well and have a great 2025.

7 Sandy, to you and the secretaries
8 and staff of Marylynn's office, great job as
9 well. Very glad you came back this year,
10 very glad we have the girls who we have.
11 You all do a great job for us and we wish
12 you a great new year and a great holiday and
13 thank you for all your hard work.

14 Mark, stenographer, thank you very
15 much. You've been here with us quite some
16 time. You do a great job with us as well.
17 I know you have to hear me talk a lot. You
18 do a lot of typing. A lot of paper. But
19 thank you. We appreciate it.

20 Attorney Rinaldi, thank you for your
21 hard work throughout the year. We
22 appreciate that as well. We wish you, as we
23 said at the beginning of the meeting, best
24 of luck tomorrow as we go into court, if it
25 hopefully stays on and nothing changes.

1 To all the members of council and
2 the mayor, real quick, thank you as well for
3 all your hard work throughout the year and
4 the years past if you were sitting here
5 then. It's not an easy job to sit here,
6 it's not an easy place to be in the public
7 eye at the table, in the bulls eye, talking,
8 answering question. You have to take the
9 heat. But that's why we were elected,
10 that's why we decide to run. I'm proud of
11 all of you. I appreciate everyone who steps
12 up to sit here, I appreciate anyone who puts
13 their name on the ballot. I appreciate
14 anyone who wants to work for the borough as
15 a whole for the kids, for the community and
16 do the best we could for everybody.

17 I think we did great in 2024, we
18 have a lot of good things planned for 2025.
19 We have a lot of projects coming up, we have
20 a lot of grant money coming, we have a lot
21 of funding, a lot of good budgeting, a lot
22 of good staff workers. I look forward to
23 everyone being here next year.

24 I'm super, super upset and sad about
25 Councilwoman Avvisato leaving. I'm going to

1 save my thoughts on her because I can talk
2 to her another day. I would rather invite
3 her in, call her and ask her to come in for
4 our next meeting. She will be resigned by
5 then because it's effective on the 1st of
6 January. But that does not mean I do not
7 want her to come in here and just -- I'd
8 like to give her the acknowledgment and the
9 nice comments we can all share with her for
10 the public for all her time, work,
11 dedication over the years. Councilwoman,
12 mayor, back to being a councilwoman. She's
13 been a great public servant for well over 20
14 years in this borough. So I would like to
15 bring her in -- at least ask her to come in
16 many and acknowledge her.

17 With that said, I wish everybody in
18 the room, everybody in the borough a safe,
19 healthy, happy holiday. Merry Christmas,
20 happy new year. Enjoy it with your family,
21 friends and loved ones. God bless
22 everybody.

23 MR. LENCESKI: I don't want to take
24 the credit. Mike put that banner up for
25 Gary.

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MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Mike, for the record, thank you.

At this time the chair would entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. KOMENSKY: Motion to adjourn.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Motion by Councilman Komensky. All in?

(Unanimous. Meeting adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I attended the foregoing proceeding, took stenographic notes of the same, that the foregoing, consisting of 54 pages, is a true and correct copy, done to the best of my ability, of same and the whole thereof.

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter

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