

**The minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on September 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM (postponed from September 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the flooding caused by tropical storm Ida) at the Municipal Building, 93 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ.**

Council President D'Arminio called the meeting to order.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Cimiluca – present  
Councilman Gierak – present  
Councilman Accomando – present  
Councilwoman Mazzer – present  
Council President D'Arminio – present

Mayor White – present  
Anthony Suarez, Twp. Attorney – present  
Mr. Klein – Twp. Engineer – present

Council President D'Arminio asked everyone to please rise for the salute to the flag and remain standing as we commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, the 13 service members who lost their lives in the line of duty in Afghanistan, and in memory of Tomassina Russo, longtime library employee, retired CFO/Treasurer Freda Brett, longtime Little League Volunteer Bill Duffy, and Emil Cilento, husband of Councilwoman Florence Mazzer.

Council President D'Arminio announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all Council members by police messenger and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments or are offended by same, may, and have in the past, sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Accomando                      Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

Ms. Starre Taormina of South Lanza Court cited Ordinance 1705-21, amending Chapter 196 Article II entitled Parking and read the following: Section 1, Chapter 196 Article II is amended, and the following new section is to be added to the Township Code: parking of commercial vehicles during certain hours prohibited. A) Parking of commercial vehicles as hereinafter defined on all streets in the Township of Saddle Brook between the hours of 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM is hereby prohibited. B) Definition for purpose of this article, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated commercial vehicle, and I emphasis commercial. She noted the article applying to herself as B: any boat trailer, utility trailer, camper type trailer, a self-propelled camper or recreational vehicle, whether or not affixed or connected to another motor vehicle. Letter i: camper vehicles, motor homes and mobile homes. She then stated she and her husband had bought a camper a couple of years ago and explained the time it takes to prepare the vehicle for

use. She said on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July at 8:30 AM the Zoning Officer, Tony Ambrogio, came to her door and reported three people had complained to him that her camper was blocking the view from Caldwell to Lanza. They were not able to make a left or when they were making a right they couldn't see, so it was obstructing their view. She said she called him a liar and disagreed. She said she did not want to be harassed by the Zoning Officer and he had no right coming and telling her she needed to move her camper. She explained she did not know about this new ordinance that came in until after he started telling her she needed to move it. That's when she started looking on line and found the ordinance. She said she was still in the right by parking there at 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM. She explained she had also taken pictures of her driveway and of her street and noted she parks about 35 feet from the corner. She offered pictures for the council to look at showing there is no obstruction of view for anyone.

Council President D'Arminio said Ms. Taormina could bring up her photos.

Ms. Taormina said camping is not a 24 seven days a week, 365 days a year thing. It's a seasonal thing. Maybe three times a month during camping season which starts April til October. She said her camper is not considered commercial and according to her New Jersey Motor Vehicles registration it is not a commercial vehicle. She noted the camper is too long to park in her driveway and asked, what am I going to do from 9:00 PM at night to 6 AM with my camper? Are you guys going to give us a place to park? I have rights also as a resident and a taxpayer of this town. It shouldn't be a one-way street. We should have been notified. Not once have I seen anything on this ordinance to be passed or whatever on line or anything like that. But I do like to know how this ordinance came about. And I think I have a right to know.

Councilman Accomando said this ordinance came about because, unfortunately in certain parts of town we have commercial vehicles that other towns do not allow commercial parking overnight. So what they were doing, they would come into Saddle Brook, parking their vehicles overnight, leaving them there, so now the residents of our Township cannot park on their own streets.

Ms. Taormina said yeah, but that's not my problem. Now I'm being penalized for this.

Councilman Accomando said you're not being penalized. It's not happening on your street, so you're fortunate. But the people that it's happening to, they can't even get into their own driveways because they have a landscape vehicle there or a plumbing truck, tree trimming truck. Those people are the people that came here complaining about this. It's unfortunate, but me personally, I don't see anything wrong with it. It's in the ordinance. We can revisit it because I personally own a camper, so I don't want to have this issue. Personally, I wouldn't buy a camper that doesn't fit in my driveway, or if I were to buy one myself, I would look elsewhere to rent a space.

Ms. Taormina said she does rent a space, but she also has to bring the camper to the house and to load it and unload it. She said you have responsibilities in a camper and this just threw my whole life out the window. She asked what am I going to do with the camper between 9 PM and 6 AM in the morning?

Mayor White asked how big the camper was.

Ms. Taormina said 32 feet.

Mayor White asked how high.

Ms. Taormina said 12 feet 1 inch.

Mayor White said I hate to tell you this, but it already violates another ordinance.

Ms. Taormina asked what that was.

Mayor White said, oversized vehicles. The ordinance was meant for persistent violators. It's just like – you know, you can't put dumpsters. We have an ordinance in town that you're not allowed to have dumpsters in the street.

Ms. Taormina said my camper is not a dumpster.

Mayor White said I know, but I'm trying to explain something to you. What I'm saying is we make allowances for that. The resident who called the building department, who called the police department, the police chief and requested basically an exemption for if it's just going to be for a short period of time. That's done all the time. So if you're not parking it there every night, it shouldn't be a problem. Let's say you're going to load the camper up and you're going to drive somewhere else and you have to take it from where you have it parked for the night, that shouldn't be a problem. It should not be a problem.

Ms. Taormina said but then Tony is making it a problem by saying--

Mayor White asked did Tony write you a ticket?

Ms. Taormina said no, he did not.

Mayor White said, so he was trying to make you aware of it. I don't want to speak for Tony.

Ms. Taormina said he wanted me to move my camper because it was obstructing a view at 9 o'clock in the morning.

Mayor White said and somebody may have said something.

Ms. Taormina said at 9 o'clock in the morning? He's telling me three people called him? When I called the office to call him back he wasn't there.

Mayor White said was it there the day before? Was it there earlier than that?

Ms. Taormina said we came home that night prior from camping. We got home about 8 o'clock. I had no clue that there was an ordinance until he came to my door when I started searching on the computer, and that's how I found this ordinance. I had no idea that this ordinance came about. And I don't understand why we have to be punished because of somebody else. And I'm asking you.

Mayor White said I don't know what to tell you about that, but the Council and I were getting complaints.

Ms. Taormina said in other words, you're not going to help me out with my camper? It's like so whatever?

Council President D'Arminio said let me ask you something. When you bring the camper home, you have the camper two hours away, correct?

Ms. Taormina said I have the camper an hour away.

Council President D'Arminio said whatever, you bring it home, you usually bring it home the night before the trip, is that what you do?

Ms. Taormina said right, the night before the trip.

Council President D'Arminio said and then you do what you need to go on your trip the next day? So the camper is there what, one night?

Ms. Taormina said one night when I go, and then the next morning I'm going camping. When I come back, it depends on the time of the day that I come back. I could be coming back at 9:30 at night, and there's no way I'm going to drive an extra hour to go bring the camper up and hurry up and unload everything. That's late and we're tired.

Council President D'Arminio said so the most time your camper is there--

Ms. Taormina said it would be two days.

Council President D'Arminio said it would be two different evenings really, and then you would remove it.

Ms. Taormina said right, say about 72 hours at the most. And it's seasonal. It's not like it sits there every day 24 hours a day. It's only there like two times a month if I go camping that often.

Mayor White said if you let them know, I'm sure they won't issue a ticket. Except, if it's bothering some of your neighbors, and I don't know if that's the case. I don't know where Tony got the complaint from.

Ms. Taormina said if it bothers my neighbors, so I don't have a right because it bothers them? I mean they have more rights than I do? That's unfair.

Mayor White said it's a violation of local ordinance twice, so that's what I'm saying to you is the police could allow it, can make an exception for the evening or whatever, but what I'm saying is if the police are getting complaints from surrounding in the neighborhood, other people may be saying hey, I can't pull out because this big thing is in my way or maybe you're too close to your neighbor's property. They don't like it, whatever, that becomes a problem because now they're going to say isn't this a violation? And then the police are going to have to say well, we gave them permission just for the night. Maybe that will fly, maybe it won't, but if it's happening all the time then they're going to be up here like you saying, well, why does this person get to break the law?

Ms. Taormina said but that's not like really breaking the law. That's me trying to have a good time and trying to take care of myself and my family and keeping them safe from going on vacation.

Councilman Cimiluca said I voted against the ordinance, but that being said, it is the law of Saddle Brook, and we had at least two meetings on it. It also, I believe, is on our website. We tried to advertise it as much as possible, not so much for things like your situation. He said the definition camper falls under commercial vehicles only by definition, we know it's not commercial, you're not going out and selling anything. I voted against it because I thought it was unfair to people that have had home based businesses basically with a commercial vehicle for years and years and years. That's why we say – that's probably why you didn't get a ticket. I think he came by at 8:30, which was after the time period, so you could stay there, but there's the other ordinance that the Mayor had indicated about the size. There's a reason for that. It's for somebody turning left off of Caldwell may have a problem, they've got to go around your vehicle--

Ms. Taormina said no they don't. If you saw the pictures you'll see how--

Councilman Cimiluca said well, I did see it, and it did concern me, to be honest with you. How far is it from the corner?

Ms. Taormina said from the corner it's – I have only a 25-foot measuring tape, so one was 25 and the other one was 7 feet. Where I align my camper is where my gate is open. I line it up perfectly every time I bring it.

Councilman Cimiluca said there's no stop sign at the corner is there?

Ms. Taormina said on the corner of Caldwell there is, yes.

Councilman Cimiluca said but not going up Lanza, because that's another thing, you have to be --

Ms. Taormina said no there is no stop sign on that corner.

Councilman Cimiluca said but the problem with all of these ordinances, they're generally generated by people complaining about things. Now, your neighbors, generally people don't want to have altercations, so they knock on your door and they say hey, listen, your monstrosity is taking up two parking spaces and I can't see. I went personally to someone else who basically looked out of their house, there was another vehicle similar to yours, but it was parked in front of somebody else's house, and when they looked out their front window they basically saw a wall of camper. They couldn't see the street.

Ms. Taormina said I wouldn't do that. I'm not inconsiderate.

Councilman Cimiluca said right, but what I'm saying is that was addressed because of neighbors so generally, enforcement is based on complaints. They don't go around and say oh, how big is this, this is commercial and give you something. It's usually based on somebody complaining, so you did have complaints about it. And if somebody does know that the ordinance exists and knows that you're violating it, they're going to call you. I'm not trying to justify what the Council did or minimize your concerns, but it is what the law is.

Ms. Taormina said what you're trying to tell me is that they have more of a right than I do. You couldn't care less what I say, and I can't park my camper there because this person is complaining.

Councilman Cimiluca said if your next door neighbor has – our ordinance says you got to stop the music at 11 o'clock, and your next door neighbor is playing music at 1 o'clock in the morning, and you say hey, cut it out, and he's going to say who are you to stop me? I pay taxes here. I want to enjoy my house.

Ms. Taormina said that doesn't bother me because there is a neighbor that does that, and it doesn't bother me because I mind my business.

Councilman Cimiluca said maybe it doesn't bother you, but it bothers a lot of people, and a lot of people will say I got this guy and he's saying I'm infringing on his rights, but I have a right too. We all have rights. This particular ordinance you may say it impinges on your right, but when did you buy the camper?

Ms. Taormina said they bought the camper in February.

Councilman Cimiluca said was it there before, were you doing the same things?

Ms. Taormina said the first time they took it out was in April. So is that against me?

Council President D'Arminio said no.

Mayor White said if I was a betting man, I would say that probably that is a violation, parking on the road in every town in Bergen County. I would have to do research on that.

Ms. Taormina said I don't know about every town. I'm just talking about Saddle Brook.

Mayor White said it's a big vehicle. It could obstruct, but I don't think you're bad here. I see where you are. I think somebody could probably see.

Ms. Taormina said no, they can see.

Mayor White said there may be a problem more on the left from Caldwell onto South Lanza.

Ms. Taormina said no, there isn't because I've done it myself three times to make sure. That's why I took the pictures the way I did.

Mayor White I'm not going to talk for Tony Ambrogio, but I can't imagine he would lie.

Ms. Taormina said I don't appreciate him coming and knocking on my door. This is not his field.

Mayor White said it kind of is his field.

Councilman Cimiluca said he is the code enforcement officer, and it's a code. So he enforces it. That is his job.

Ms. Taormina said I hope it's not going to be an ongoing thing that I have my camper outside, and he's going to come knocking on my door and tell me to move it because I think I have, as a resident of this town, I have rights also, and I don't think it's fair that I

have to find somewhere between 9 PM and 6 AM to park my vehicle. You guys want to give me a place to park it between those times?

Mayor White said a lot of people park at Wal\*Mart.

Ms. Taormina said she would not park at Wal\*Mart because of the racing that goes on there. She said so you guys want to give me the solution here? What do I do?

Mayor White said I think I gave you the solution. If I were you, I would call the police department and ask them if you can keep it there overnight prior to, and I'm sure that they will. I'll mention it to the officer in charge that you may call. As long as we don't get complaints, but it sounds like we may get complaints, and then I'll have to come to you and say we can't let you do it because we're getting complaints.

Ms. Taormina said but even if you get complaints, where's my right? I don't have a right because somebody else complains? I don't get that.

Mayor White said because you're violating the law. Basically you're breaking the law.

Ms. Taormina said but I'm not breaking the law.

Mayor White said we're allowing you to break the law temporarily because of the situation.

Ms. Taormina said I don't believe I'm breaking the law. It's not a commercial vehicle either and it shouldn't be under commercial.

Council President D'Arminio said but it's very large. How often do you bring it home?

Ms. Taormina said twice a month during the summer time. How bad is that? And it's usually on the weekends when there's less traffic, when there's nobody around. So I don't see why there's a big problem here.

Council President D'Arminio said so twice a month, you bring it home twice.

Ms. Taormina said right. I go camping at least twice a month. Sometimes I go once a month.

Mayor White said all year round?

Ms. Taormina said no only from April to October.

Councilman Cimiluca said is it too long or too wide to fit in your driveway?

Ms. Taormina said it's too long.

Councilman Cimiluca said is there a garage?

Ms. Taormina said there is a garage. I could park it in your driveway.

Mayor White said the problem is, if we allow you to do that, then everybody is going to want to.

Ms. Taormina said how about Home Depot? Can I park it in there? You can charge me \$25 a month.

Council President D'Arminio said I think maybe we should leave it that you call the police and let them know that you're going to be there, and let's see if that works. And if the neighbors don't call and complain. I think that's fair. Do you have anything better? I don't know anything better.

Councilman Accomando said call the churches in town. They may let you park for \$75 a month.

Ms. Taormina said they won't. I tried.

Council President D'Arminio said let's see how this works, and we will revisit. You'll come back, and you'll let us know.

Ms. Taormina said can I park it in the Senior Center?

Mayor White said if you get it out of there early in the morning, I don't think it's going to be a big problem.

Council President D'Arminio said the problem is the back now, we rent out the back.

Mr. Lo Dico said that's Wells Fargo, that's not ours. Just the front four or five parking spaces.

Council President D'Arminio said it would be too long to park it in front of the center. And the rest is Wells Fargo, and the bus is in the long spot.

Mayor White said it's not a good idea. Our attorney just told us. God forbid something happens to it there. It's a liability for the town.

Ms. Taormina said what about the Home Depot? There's plenty of parking over there.

Mayor White said it's still the same thing. It's town property.

Ms. Taormina said I guess my only hope is pray that I don't get a ticket.

Council President D'Arminio said no, to call and let the police know that you're coming home with the camper and then how long you're going to be there, one day and you're leaving.

Councilman Accomando said it's just loading and unloading and then bring it back to--

Council President D'Arminio said she's there overnight.

Ms. Taormina said it depends on what time I get home at night. If I get home at 9 o'clock at night I'm not going to unload the whole thing and clean it.

Council President D'Arminio said let's see how that works, if you call and see how your neighbors are.

Ms. Taormina said is this going to be an ongoing thing that Anthony is going to come knock at my door at 8:30 in the morning and tell me that I have to move it?

Mayor White said I'll talk to Anthony.

Mr. Thomas Van Winkle of Lincoln Avenue thanked all the first responders for everything they did during the remnants of Ida and said he hoped everybody who got flooded recovers.

Regarding the Mayor's Youth Group, Mr. Van Winkle said they hoping to meet sometime this month. They don't have a date yet. In August they helped out with the town picnic. Everybody did an amazing job with that. It was a great day. They went to Humdingers as an outing in Paramus and everyone had an amazing time. He thanked Mayor White and Christine Genuario for organizing that and added they were looking forward to being involved in upcoming events such as the Halloween and Christmas Decorating Contests and as always, any members who are in fourth through twelfth grade this year, as long as you live in Saddle Brook, you're welcome to join the group.

Mr. Thomas Dickman of Albany Street said there was an article posted in the paper saying they're spending \$1.7 million for the duck pond in Ridgewood, which was just recently redone less than ten years ago. He asked if the Council along with maybe Rochelle Park could invest some money and time into Saddle Brook Park because the park is a disgrace the way it is, and since the flooding it's even worse.

Council President D'Arminio agreed with Mr. Dickman and said we've already contacted them, in fact Assembly members Lisa Swain and Chris Tully were at a meeting of ours not too long ago, and she brought that to their attention and they actually did the new roof on the pavilion and put two new toilets in the ladies room.

Mr. Dickman said I know they had a plan back when they did the pond in Garfield and they did Ridgewood, but then when they dredged the little pond, they couldn't fill it. They had an issue.

Council President D'Arminio said the County has to do it.

Mr. Dickman said the Saddle River Park is county-owned too. They were supposed to do that one next after they did the duck pond ten years ago, but that kind of got ixnayed.

Council President D'Arminio said she believed Councilman Cimiluca had an update on that.

Councilman Cimiluca said I talked to the Mayor of Lodi, who also is the director of our park, and he said they have limited funds, they have limited people. I've been on them for the past year to clean up around, and what I was told that after the duck pond we were next on the list. Believe that, don't believe it, but that's what I was told. I've known him since high school, so I don't think he would out and out lie to me, but between now and then something else is going to come up and--

Mr. Dickman said they've got to fix around the lake anyway.

Councilman Cimiluca said right now it's closed.

Councilman Accomando said if we have to get on them, we get on them. It's got to be done.

Councilman Cimiluca said this is an election year. The Freeholders are up for election. They'd like to be re-elected. Lisa Swain, Chris Tully are our state people, but the direct people who write the checks and approve all the improvements to the park are the Freeholders, so if I was anyone out there and had an issue with this, and I've done this myself personally, contact the freeholders especially the ones that are running and say listen, we're from Saddle Brook, our park is a mess, and now it's even further a mess because of Ida, but it was a mess before, and we've been asking. I don't know how many times -- you go back years and see me or one of the people up here saying that we've asked the County to do their stuff, and it just hasn't gone our way. Like I've said before, we're the redheaded stepchild of the Bergen County Parks system. It seems like we're always last, and it's a beautiful park.

Mr. Dickman said it could be.

Councilman Cimiluca said it could be gorgeous. I walked that park a couple of times with a bunch of different people, and they said, yeah we're going to do this, this is in the works. One of the problems we had is the drainage. There used to be -- the river actually used to flow into the lake on the north end, and there is an outlet at the other end on the south end of the lake, and it's supposed to be circulating.

Mr. Dickman said it just did that last week.

Councilman Cimiluca said unfortunately that's what it did. I was hoping they would actually drain the lake so this way it could be -- I think it started as a retention basin, so this way we can put millions of gallons probably extra in there. I don't think we anticipated this. We relied on weatherman. I don't think anybody anticipated this. But when I went there I said we can do this, they said well that's our engineering department. We can do this, well that's our arbor department, and we have to do studies, this is our mosquito control division. I didn't even know we had so many layers of government, and this one doesn't work with the other one. It's crazy. I was really shocked by how many different levels of county government there are for one park, and it's not that big of a park. This one can't do it because it's almost like working at the Javitz Center. You can't just screw in a light bulb because that's one union, and the other union has to open the door for you. It was the same kind of thing. It was kind of



crazy, but I was told we're next on the list. Whether that comes to fruition or not, I don't know, but I've got his cell phone and believe me, I call.

Mr. Dickman said if you could reach out and see if we could do something. Second question, a couple of weeks ago a truck went by spraying at night, was that for the mosquitos? It was probably about two weeks ago.

Council President D'Arminio said spraying at night where?

Mr. Dickman said on Albany Street.

Mr. Lo Dico said usually the Bergen County Mosquito Commission will spray.

Mr. Dickman said since the flood, in my area, mosquitos are bad because of all the laying water. I was going to ask if they could spray.

Mr. Lo Dico said we will reach out to them.

Fire Chief Polizzotti said we went through quite an event with the storm. It was really two events, we had the torrential rains that caused the flash flooding, and then the river which was the night of and then the day after kind of thing. He said he attended meetings in Rochelle Park with their OEM and they are very organized. A lot could be learned from their efforts there. He said he was extremely proud of the fire department for getting the equipment that we do have to have prepared for this almost without me having to tell them. There was also a boat task force that was set up. Numbers wise in excess of ten vehicles that we got called to pull people out. We probably had in excess of 20 fire related calls either water rescues, evacuations of homes. We did have a smoke condition at Kessler and their basement was flooded to the ceiling and they were reaching out for a fire truck to pump the mayor got me in contact with their CEO. Fortunately the County OEM sent the super pump there, and it was very effective for them. He said looking ahead, I've been trying to obtain equipment for the department through the rescue truck bond money. I'm looking to get boats and other equipment, and I have quotes to do. We're going to have an officer's meeting tomorrow, and we're going to talk quite a bit about this and what we can do better, the things we did right. We're definitely going to discuss purchasing additional boats. We have the money. It's just a matter of putting pen to paper and buying these things. We're also looking to get a high water vehicle, and that would come in handy in a lot of these situations. There was coordination with the town as far as once we rescued people where are we going to put them, so we had the Senior Center and Long School, but there is a lot of planning that goes into that kind of thing. You just can't leave somebody at the school. There's got to be somebody there to attend them. And this worked out. He concluded that was his update for the storm and said he was proud to lead the department.

Council President D'Arminio thanked the chief for his report and his service during the storm.

Mr. Emil Sudol of Van Luyn Terrace said the chief did an awesome job and should get whatever he needs. He said the storm was incredible, there was a lot of damage. Driving around town you see the amount of furniture in the garbage. He then said the reason he was here was that there are a lot of people with pets and dogs and at least twice a day, usually early in the morning or evening when they come home from work they take their dogs out for a walk and they really don't have any destination. They just walk around the neighborhood until the dog does their business on somebody's lawn. Some of my neighbors put out warning signs, please curb your dog and that kind of stuff. Is there any way that we can give these people a destination? Like on Kern, that little park there with the jungle gym? Could we take half of that and make it a dog park? Fence it off, give them some supplies, some garbage bags and stuff like that.

Council President D'Arminio said well, if you have a dog, Emil...and there is no destination you do bring a bag with you and you clean up.

Mr. Sudol said well, some people do and some people don't. At least once a week I'm cleaning up in front of my house or on the lawn, the yellow stains that are all over the place. Also I think through the Blue Acres program didn't you guys condemn a couple houses along the river were they knocked down?

Council President D'Arminio said no. Not yet.

Mr. Sudol asked if we could maybe knock them down and put up another dog park there? Do something to help out this – it's just pretty nasty. I don't want to come home and pick up somebody else's dog crap.

Mayor White said that's Open Space.

Mr. Lo Dico said the one house doesn't have parking, it's in the middle of other houses.

Mr. Sudol said Garfield recently built one on Midland Avenue. It's nice. There's some seating for the people. They have special garbage bins for the dog waste and bags and gloves.

Mayor White said a lot of people in town have asked me about dog parks.

Mr. Sudol said I think that's a great idea.

Mayor White said I don't think that spot is the best, only because I think it's small.

Mr. Sudol said it's pretty big actually. There's nothing else there. It's not being used for anything.

Mayor White said the other thing is it's kind of close to houses, the dogs get together, they bark, if they bring the dog too early.

Councilman Accomando said through the chair, I did speak with Scott. There's a piece of Saddle River Park/Saddle Brook Park that's not being used. It's actually to the right of those houses behind the Township Fountain. There's a huge field that doesn't get used. We used to use it for soccer practice, but they don't use it anymore. I asked them if they would consider letting us use that property for a dog park. He said he would speak to whoever he has to speak to and find out, especially if it's not being used. We basically just have to maintain it. Working with the County, we deal with a lot of dog parks, and what they do is if there's any trees they knock down, the chippings, they put into the dog park so you don't have to worry about cutting grass, and they do put up receptacles with doggie bags. They even have water stations. So it is being looked at. Whether they give it to us, I have no idea, but for them, like Andrew said, for an election year, it's probably a smart thing to do.

Mr. Sudol said a lot of people don't go to dog parks because they don't exist. They have no destination to go with the dog. When you go walk around you neighborhood and the dog does his business and they take him home, and this happens at least two or three times a day.

Councilman Cimiluca said if we do a dog park, no matter where it is in town, you just happen to live a block away from that place, so it's good for the people in your four or five block area. But my prediction is this, if we do even one dog park, I'm not against the idea of a dog park, I thought Fifth Street Park actually would be an ideal place, the only thing is parking. Wherever we put it, there will be people coming here and saying, you know what? You know what the dog park smells like? It smells like dog poop, and I got the odor of dog poop all over the place, and I got barking dogs, and there's people there. There's going to be people complaining. Just like whenever we do something, we did something in response to complaints and it effects other people. I'm not against it, but I'm just telling you, I'm just predicting that somebody, if we do it, hopefully I'll be around, but if we do this you know somebody's going to come up here and somebody is going to be complaining about it.

Mayor White said it does need maintenance too.

Mr. Sudol said have someone empty the garbage can once a week.

Mayor White said I like the park because to me I think people that go to dog parks, they want to bring their dog there, let them run around in a contained area.

Mr. Sudol said I just think a couple of them in town would deter that. One other point that I wanted to mention was, Fifth Street, the flooding part of it, but where the old Amloid factory was, it's a mess. I don't know if there's property management people. The weeds are high, it looks terrible.

Mayor White said they're going to be doing something there.

Mr. Sudol said I hope so.

Councilman Cimiluca said. A dog park is actually for exercise, not to take them there to go to the bathroom. But the idea of a dog park to be used as a dog park for exercise, Maywood's got a great one on Spring Valley, and I think it's good.

Mr. Sudol said very good, thank you.

Council President D'Arminio said Todd is going to stay on top of that, right Todd?

Mr. Sudol said finally, Saddle Brook Park, right now it's closed. It's a mess. The storm did a hell of a lot of damage. That duck pond, that's actually a water retention pit. I think Andy said the water is supposed to flow in the north side, flow out the back side. Well it doesn't do that, and I was told that since it was built that way, it was never operated by anyone. It don't work. That water sits there, and it's stagnant. Nothing flows through there at all. The only time it gets new fresh water is when it floods like it did recently. I brought up this in the past also, that aerator in that lake still does not work. I took a little bit of a walk along the bike path, there's so much overgrowth of everything, bushes and weeds and vines, you can't even see the river along the bike path even though you're walking right alongside it. I wish the County would step up here and really do a number on cleaning up because it really could be an awesome place, but man it's a sewer, it's a swamp, it's terrible. It's full of silt and fallen trees, and the County does nothing. I hope something is done about it.

Council President D'Arminio said I can only tell you we're on it, and I know the poison ivy. We were there for the picnic.

Mr. Sudol said great job with that, the picnic was great. As far as that goes, the benches, finally we got new benches even though we asked for new benches, I know that Todd stepped up.

Council President D'Arminio said they floated away, that's right.

Mr. Sudol said watch out they don't take them away again.

Councilman Accomando said we're building more. We have eight more to build.

Hearing no one else, Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to close the public hearing and close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Accomando                      Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

## COMMENTS

Mayor White presented a certificate of appreciation to Thomas Van Winkle, along with An official ID and a T-shirt. He said from the bottom of our hearts we really appreciate everything you do. Not only as a photographer and the youth group, you're always around, alerting us to problems that go on in town. We need to know that, we need to be informed. Thank you so much.

Council President D'Arminio congratulated Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Van Winkle said thanked everyone and said it's an honor and a privilege to be able to do this. He said he would be in attendance at the 9/11 ceremony on Friday and maybe at the football game on Saturday.

Regarding tropical storm Ida, Mayor White said it looks like about 30% of the flooding was from the river itself. Usually it's more with the river, but about 70% was caused by flash flooding and ground saturation. Residents that rarely get water were effected, property and basements that took in water. People have been through this before and they've learned a lot. I think education paid off and the things that we tried to do to mitigate the flooding like de-snagging and cleaning up, when the County does help us out and we're always on top of them as we talked about here. Believe me every one of us has had a conversation with a County official, not only the commissioners but the County Executive. They do come through but there's a lot more that needs to get done, and we feel like we're constantly staying on them. But I'd rather maintain that good relationship rather than as somebody mentioned why don't you go over to one of the commissioner's meetings and scream. Sometimes that's effective, but I think right now we have a good enough relationship that we just keep at it we're going to get things done.

The Mayor noted the river went up to 12.8 feet at the highest point. Forty motorists got stuck in the flood waters driving during the heavy rain that night. He said we did put out a NIXLE telling people to move their vehicles to higher ground, but if you've lived there 30 years and you never had a problem you're not going to think that – you can't blame a resident that never floods that doesn't move their car. The Kessler Rehab basement was flooded, and I was happy that the Bergen County OEM came out. They do a lot in town, so I was happy we were able to accommodate them. Also the DPW breakroom took on water.

Mayor White mentioned Saddle River County Park is closed right now. We didn't get too much information on when it's going to be reopened, but they're surveying the damage and making repairs. County officials advise for everyone's safety they're recommending that you please do not visit the park until it reopens. The parking area, the bathrooms, playground, ball fields and the pond are all closed.

He then thanked the emergency responders, the OEM, police department, fire department, ambulance, DPW, saying they all did an outstanding job. We have great emergency services. We took some people out on boats. The hardest hit area with the river was the area where they took people out in the boats was basically Saddle River Road and Rochelle Parkway, the top part by that creek so from Saddle River Road to Mayhill, all in there was hit the worst, Albany, Congress and Washington and the area north. That got hit, but not as bad as the previous storm I don't think. We were fortunate. A lot of people that got water in previous storms didn't get it from the river. We put in a hot line if you need assistance with flooding call 201-587-2912. Check the website and social media for important info and updates posted, FEMA applications for homeowners that's on the website.

Regarding COVID-19, Mayor White said the transmission rate is high right now. Bergen County saw an additional 1200 or so cases, a rise of about 18.92%. Saddle Brook saw a similar increase of 28 new cases in a two week period. It's like 15 a week. It's not nearly as bad as what it was in the beginning. I think we're going to be ok. I hope we're going to be ok. The numbers kind of bear that out too. Hospitalizations and admissions are up about 4%, 21 counties in NJ are now experiencing higher transmissions, it's all due to this delta variant. Last week, or ten days ago New Jersey joined the growing list of states that require teachers to be vaccinated for COVID-19 this fall, and masks in schools are required except for gym and lunch. The state health department data shows that the delta variant is still the strain seen in most of the cases, 80% of them. The COVID-19 vaccine, they are saying, continues to be effective protection against hospitalization and death. There have been 33 deaths among fully vaccinated people. Of the 1637 fully vaccinated individuals who did test positive, 98% stayed out of the hospital, so if you're vaccinated you can still get it but you're protected 98% of the time that you're not going to get that sick that you need to be in the hospital. Unvaccinated people accounted for roughly 88% of the positive test results for that week. They site these numbers as proof the vaccines work.

The Mayor went on to say five and a half million individuals who live in NJ have been fully vaccinated. That represents about 70% of all eligible New Jerseyans are fully vaccinated, and around 80% got at least one vaccine or the first dose. There's a booster shot that's coming out, a third dose. Again it will take some time before most become eligible. It's only now available to immunocompromised individuals including stem cell transplant, people with HIV, recipients of cancer treatment and people with a weakened immune system. The goal eventually is to provide shots to all those who are most at risk including health care providers, residents of long term care facilities and other older adults. Immunocompromised patients should be able to get a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines at any location offering them. All existing vaccine sites are being instructed to offer third doses and all have been advised to accept walk-ins. New Jersey has a vaccine call number. You can do to the state website and check that there, NJ.gov. The shuttered vaccine megasites will probably re-open for a period of time to accommodate they anticipate a lot of people who want to get the booster. Some questions that are out there, what vaccines are available for the third dose, it's Pfizer and Moderna. Patients should get the same vaccine they received before but if the vaccine administered for the first two doses is not available, the other may be administered so you can swap them, but they don't recommend it. Johnson and Johnson it's likely that they will develop a booster according to the CDC because J&J wasn't given in the US until the approval wasn't given until about 70 days after Pfizer and Moderna. They need to make make a decision on booster doses being available yet. People who received the J&J vaccine cannot get the Pfizer or Moderna shot. The CDC says there isn't enough data to support that action. There's limited information about the risk of receiving a booster shot. So far reactions reported after the third dose have been similar to the two dose series, fatigue and pain at the injection site are the most commonly reported side effects and most symptoms were mild to moderate. Check with the CDC regarding side effects.

Regarding the budget, the Mayor said we are waiting for the County to set the tax rate before we send out the next tax bill which should be at the end of September, and that will be the remainder of 2021 and half of 2022.

He gave a brief municipal complex update, saying we're being careful to try and stay within budget some things. The windows were cut out, the cement work was poured last Thursday, the elevator shaft is in. The next couple of weeks they should have a full crew of contractors. We will be posting updates to the town website. Thomas is going there to take photos so check the town website for that.

Mayor White said the 2021 Road resurfacing program phase II is Wilson and South Broadway, and right now we're working on Steinway, which is part of Phase I. The Mayhill Street Park is going to be renovated shortly. Tri-Centennial Park, we're doing the memorial benches there, and we're going to have a dedication ceremony sometime in the fall; that's just about complete. Some events that we had, Thomas mentioned we had the Mayor's Youth Group outing at Humdingers. The kids deserve it, they do a lot of work during the year and this is a way to show them that we care and appreciate all they do. The Mayor's Walk was Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. We had a nice crowd. I want to thank our sponsor. The Township Picnic was Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and that was a big success. I thought it was bigger and better than ever. A lot of people to thank there. All those who made this activity a success including Council President D'Arminio, Christine Genuario, Shannon Accomando, Pete Lo Dico and all of our sponsors.

Mr. Lo Dico noted the board was up listing all of the sponsors.

Mayor White thanked them for their generosity and said we could not have done it without their financial support. He commended the police department, fire department, ambulance corps for their assistance, the DPW for all the work they did, recreation director Andy Gallo, the Saddle Brook Women's Club, Saddle Brook Library, Mayor's Youth Group and St. Philip's Church.

Mayor White noted the following upcoming events: Peggy Macray BINGO lunch at the Senior Center on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon; the 9/11 ceremony this Friday at Town Hall at 6:00 PM; Saddle Brook Angels Opening Day is Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM at Avon Field; Father Matthew's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee is Sunday,

September 12<sup>th</sup> including a special mass followed by a luncheon reception in the auditorium, there are still tickets available for that; the Eagle Scout Ceremony is Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at the VFW; the paper Shredding event is Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the new municipal building, 55 Mayhill Street, and somehow I am going to make sure that everybody in this town finds out about that paper shredding because every year I get beat up that somebody didn't know about it, so we're going to make sure that we do our best. Councilman Cimiluca is going to go with the loudspeaker.

Councilman Cimiluca confirmed it's Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Mayor White said the Bergen County surrogate is doing a presentation on Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Senior Center. He talks about wills and probate, what you need to do if somebody passes away. It's probably going to be about 45 minutes to an hour with questions. There's going to be a Townwide Garage Sale Saturday and Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Out of the Darkness Community Walk Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we will get the park. Anyone interested may registers at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 12 noon to 2:00 PM at the new municipal complex.

In conclusion Mayor White spoke briefly about individuals who passed away in August. He said Emil Ciliento was just a great guy, my heart goes out to Flo and her family and his family. He was a wonderful person. No one ever said a bad word about Emil ever, he was a prince of a person. Phil Duffy, past president of Saddle Brook Little League, Tomassina Russo who worked for over 30 years at the Saddle Brook Library, and Freda Brett, former CFO/Treasurer from the 1960s to the early 1990s.

Councilman Accomando thanked everyone for the picnic and thanked Chief Polizzotti and for the work he did over the past few days. Regarding Rochelle Park he said Pete Donatello, his act his so together and we all could learn from what he does for his residents. I agree that we do need more rescue vehicles, more rescue equipment, communications. There was a point where I was speaking with Deputy Chief Sibani, and we tried to get together, but I don't have a radio and I don't have a vehicle other than my own, and we couldn't get together because the water was just – I couldn't get to him, he couldn't get to me, so we definitely have to work on communication. It was brought to my attention that you guys worked for 16 plus hours maybe 20 hours, and you guys did not eat, so we have to come up with some type of plan to make sure that if these guys are helping our residents, we can at least feed them.

Chief Polizzotti said I'm a chief that feeds my guys, and it got to a point where during the storm everybody was closed.

Mr. Lo Dico said normally we do have food during stand by.

Chief Polizzotti said in this case we were out. There were some lulls in the activity but nothing was open.

Councilman Accomando said we do need to work on OEM in the Township because honestly, compared to other towns, we're horrible. I hate to say that as a city councilman, but we're horrible when it comes to the OEM part of communication with the Township. If it wasn't for Joe, Jay and Captain Galbo I wouldn't have known anything that was going on. We tried to help, we couldn't get to each other. It was just unfortunate. I would ask the Council, Pete, Mayor, I think we need to look at the budget and see if we can find some money -- whether we need vehicles, education -- we definitely need to be educated with our OEM as far as classes, communications stuff, we have to try and get that money and put it to work because Rochelle Park has OEM CERT. Their CERT is doing a phenomenal job of getting people that are upset – they lost pretty much everything – sometimes an individual is just given an ear, or help out with cleaning, doing some type of paper work. That helps when you're in a crisis. Those little things help, so I'm just asking that we get for OEM backup, we get CERT and we get it going soon because we really need it. It's almost to the point where it's an embarrassment because these guys are literally killing themselves, and they had no help. I'm asking for the budget to revamp our OEM and bring it to where it should be and ask for help from Rochelle Park because that guy is unbelievable.

Mayor White said I agree. I think they held their own, and they did a tremendous job, and it we need to coordinate better. We did have a big issue with, our OEM coordinator.

Councilman Accomando said you guys did a great job. Mayor, I know you were out there, and you did a great job. It's just unfortunate because it could be handled a little bit – I'm not saying you guys didn't do a good job. It could have been handled differently. If you had had some of the other weight off your shoulders and put on somebody else to help you.

Mayor White said it would have run smoother and thank God – it could have been worse, those deficiencies would have been seen. CERT, they do a great job in Rochelle Park. They got battered. Two hundred homes in Rochelle Park and Paramus as well along the river, but CERT teams were out there just collecting information going door to door. We were able to get by this one but the next one -- we got lucky.

Councilman Accomando said I definitely would like to see the CERT team come in get involved with the fire department, police department, ambulance corps, DPW so we can all be in the same page. My other question is -- I don't know why I looked toward Saddle River Road by Route 80. The flooding over there, is that due to also that culvert that the water from the highway goes into?

Mr. Lo Dico said I'm not sure. I'd have to check with DPW.

Councilman Accomando said I wonder if all that area from the culvert came into that area because that area got destroyed. It made it a lot worse than it usually is, because that water had nowhere to go.

Mr. Lo Dico said that was a problem.

Councilman Accomando concluded by wishing the students a happy, healthy and safe school year.

Councilman Gierek acknowledged all the first responders and said they did a tremendous job keeping us all safe. We appreciate their sacrifice and leadership during this difficult storm. The Township will be collaborating with Rochelle Park. This was on Facebook, it's been on the website. We're holding a flood meeting about the Saddle River. This was planned about a month ago, prior to the storm. Information will be provided on what to do before, during and after a major flood event. Representatives will be there from the Office of Emergency Management and from FEMA to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program. The meeting will take place at Midland School, 300 Rochelle Avenue in Rochelle Park on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All Saddle Brook residents are welcome to attend, and please bring all of your questions. The Saddle Brook Flood Committee will be having a meeting September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Senior Center. He then commended Council President D'Arminio and all the volunteers for helping out at the Township Picnic. It was a huge success. He then thanked all the sponsors for their generous contributions and donations. In conclusion he wished all the students, teachers, administrators and district employees a safe, healthy and successful school year.

Councilman Cimiluca mentioned the 9/11 memorial and said this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so it has special meaning. Hopefully everyone can get here. If you have any memories or lost anybody, I'm sure that you will have an opportunity to speak, and air your thoughts.

Regarding the flood he mentioned that we were lucky in Saddle Brook, there were no deaths and no injuries thanks to our first responders.

Councilman Cimiluca then mentioned the UNICO Street Fair and said I'm a proud member of UNICO for 20 something years. That's going to be on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope to see everyone out there, mentioning that now because I don't think we're going to have our Council meeting until after that, so please come out and support all the vendors who come.

Councilwoman Mazzer said her thoughts and prayers go out to everyone effected by the flood and devastation. She thanked the first responders and said we such a

dedicated group. She then noted ACME is offering a 10% discount. Tell them you were affected by the flood before the cashier rings out and they will take 10% off your balance. She thanked Council President D'Arminio for a great job on the picnic and everyone associated with it. She wished all the students a safe and fun year and thanked everyone for all their kind words.

Council President D'Arminio thanked the first responders and everybody who helped with the picnic. She said I get a lot of accolades, but I have a lot of help, and if it wasn't for all of you, it wouldn't be as successful as it is. It was a great day. We got to get out and see our neighbors and our friends, and it really worked out well for being a rain date.

Regarding the Municipal Complex she said the concrete was poured and it is going forward. We should have five trades working within the next four weeks. Everything is moving along. I just want to address one issue – it was mentioned somewhere that the building was flooded. The building was not flooded. There was not a drop of water inside, outside or around the complex. So just to squash that rumor, there was no water; the water does go in ACME in the driveway, and I guess that's because there's a drain there, but it does not affect anything next door where our complex will be. I think it's very important for people to know that because for people to say we're under water or we bought a building in a flood area, it is wetlands in the back, with this rain, there wasn't a drop. So I think we're in good shape, and it is moving forward, and we're keeping in a time frame, and I think it's going to be great when it's done. I really think you'll all be happy with it.

Mr. Lo Dico thanked everyone here and mentioned the great job done by our volunteers, by DPW, our police, they did work together well, our ambulance corps. It was historic rainfall, that's all we can say. They were there rescuing people, cleaning up afterwards and I just want to thank them and say how proud we are.

He told Councilwoman Mazzer our grief extends for the loss of Emil. He was as good friend of mine and everybody up here. He contributed greatly to Saddle Brook in his own special way, and we're all going to miss him, and to the other families of course our sympathy. There were a lot of good memories with Freda Brett and her husband Jack who was deputy chief years ago. A great family and we will miss them.

## \* **ORDINANCES**

### **1. ORDINANCE #1709-21 – FIRST READING AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PAPER STREET AND RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED AT ADAMS AVENUE**

The Council President announced that the next order of business is the introduction of **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PAPER STREET AND RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED AT ADAMS AVENUE**

The Council President directed the Township Clerk to read the resolution regarding passage and adoption on first reading.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes  
Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes



Council President D'Arminio – yes

### **CR# 921-161**

**Be it resolved** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that  
**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A CERTAIN PAPER STREET AND RIGHT OF WAY LOCATED AT ADAMS AVENUE**

heretofore passed on first reading, be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Building, 93 Market Street and that at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance according to law, with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of a time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President D'Arminio – yes

**All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered routine and non-controversial by the Township Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so requests it, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The one motion signifies adoption of all resolutions, receive and file letters, correspondence, reports and approval of minutes and applications.**

Mr. Lo Dico noted the minutes of the August 5<sup>th</sup> regular public meeting would not be part of the consent agenda.

Councilman Cimiluca read Resolution CR# 921-166 appointing Thomas Van Winkle as official township photographer.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President D'Arminio – yes

## **MINUTES**

**The minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting are not part of the consent agenda.**

1. August 5, 2021 – Regular Public Meeting

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

**\* RESOLUTIONS**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-162**

**WHEREAS**, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as dedicated by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Saddle Brook provides for receipt of C.A.S.A. – Citizens Against Substance Abuse - Trust Fund by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the C.A.S.A. – Citizens Against Substance Abuse Trust Fund are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the C.A.S.A. – Citizens Against Substance Abuse Trust Fund.
2. The Municipal Clerk of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Councilman Gierek - yes  
Councilman Accomando - yes  
Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-163**

**WHEREAS**, a property located in the Township of Saddle Brook, known as 43 Weller Terrace, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1811, Lot 26 is assessed to Joseph and Marian Halter; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Halter has been declared 100% tax exempt by the Department of Veterans Affairs effective October 22, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, 43 Weller Terrace, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1811, Lot 26 will be tax exempt as of October 22, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tax collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes effective October 22, 2020 and issue a refund to the mortgage company in the amount of \$9,739.90 for the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first, second and third quarters of 2021. This property will be 100% tax exempt for 2021.

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
1811	26	CORELOGIC	2020	\$1,963.90
		3001 HACKBERRY ROAD	2021	\$7,776.00
		IRVING, TX 75063		

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilman Gierak - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-164**

**WHEREAS**, a property located in the Township of Saddle Brook, known as 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1411, Lot 5 is assessed to Mr. Daniel Tello; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Tello has been declared 100% tax exempt by the Department of Veterans Affairs effective August 6, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2020 Daniel Tello purchased 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1411, Lot 5 will be tax exempt as of December 22, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tax collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes effective December 22, 2020 and issue a refund to the homeowner in the amount of \$2,846.69 for the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. This property will be 100% tax exempt for 2021.

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
1411	5	MR. DANIEL TELLO	2021	\$2,846.69
		234 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE	2021	\$7,776.00
		SADDLE BROOK, NJ 07663		

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilman Gierak - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-165**

**WHEREAS**, a property located in the Township of Saddle Brook, known as 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1411, Lot 5 is assessed to Mr. Daniel Tello; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Tello has been declared 100% tax exempt by the Department of Veterans Affairs effective August 6, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2020 Daniel Tello purchased 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, 234 Cambridge Avenue, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1411, Lot 5 will be tax exempt as of December 22, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tax collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes effective December 22, 2020 and issue a refund to the mortgage company in the amount of \$5,306.60 for the second and third quarters of 2021. This property will be 100% tax exempt for 2021.

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
1411	5	CORELOGIC 3001 HACKBERRY ROAD IRVING, TX 75063 ATTN: REFUND DEPT.	2021	\$5,306.60

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - yes

Councilman Gierek - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Council President D'Arminio - yes

## **TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION**

### **CR# 921-166**

**Presented by Councilman Cimiluca**

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Van Winkle has diligently and faithfully taken on the responsibility of faking photographs at all Town Hall events and functions; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas, through his pictures, recorded Township events and has shared them on various Township Social Media sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas has become an indispensable and dedicated individual who we can count on to be every Township event.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Council that Thomas Van Winkle, Lincoln Avenue, Saddle Brook, NJ is hereby appointed the Official Photographer for the Township of Saddle Brook; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that on behalf of the residents of Saddle Brook, we thank Thomas for his contributions to the Township.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - yes

Councilman Gierek - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-167**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the following requisition(s) submitted to the Township Council for purchases over \$2,500.00 be approved providing funds are available:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
POLICE	WINNER FORD	POLICE VEHICLE (PATROL)	\$46,776.00
POLICE	WINNER FORD	POLICE VEHICLE (PATROL)	\$42,321.00
FIRE	ALL HANDS FIRE	BAIL OUT TRAINING	\$6,000.00
WATER	RIO SUPPLY	WATER METERS	\$27,636.00
SEWER	CARFI ELECTRIC	LASER LEVEL TRANSMITTER	\$4,200.00
		5 <sup>th</sup> STREET PUMP STATION	
WATER	SEMERARO	WATER MAIN BREAK SCHEPIS AVENUE	\$6,000.00
SEWER	SEMERARO	SEWER REPAIR-MARKET STREET	\$9,417.68
GRANT	PLAYGROUND DEPOT	MAYHILL ST PARK	\$43,927.00

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilman Gierek - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-168**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING \$29,917.29 PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.**

**THESE BILLS ARE PAID THROUGH OFFLINE CHECKS**

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

- Councilman Cimiluca - yes
- Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
- Councilman Gierek - yes
- Councilman Accomando - yes
- Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-169**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING **\$3,846,513.70** PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Councilman Gierek - yes  
Councilman Accomando - yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION TO CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECKS**

**CR# 921-170**

**WHEREAS**, the following checks issued from the Township of Saddle Brook have been outstanding for more than six months and are now stale-dated; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel outstanding checks.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, that the following outstanding checks issued from the Township of Saddle Brook bank accounts be cancelled:

**CURRENT FUND**

<u>CHECK NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
60595	10/1/2020	\$7,507.50
60794	11/6/2020	\$750.00
60823	11/6/2020	\$750.00
60864	12/3/2020	\$44.00
60944	12/29/2020	\$8,705.00
60945	12/29/2020	\$390.00
60950	12/29/2020	\$2,625.00

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Councilman Gierek - yes  
Councilman Accomando - yes  
Council President D'Arminio - yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 921-171**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Saddle Brook advertised for bids for the 2021 Road Improvement Program, Phase 2; and

**WHEREAS**, 5 bids were received and opened on August 26, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer in correspondence dated August 26, 2021 recommends awarding the contract to the lowest bidder and the Township Attorney has reviewed the bids received and concurs; and

**WHEREAS**, the low bidder is Frank Macchione Construction, Inc. 141 Central Avenue, Rochelle Park, NJ with a base bid of \$392,280.58; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has completed a certificate of availability of funds certifying that funds are available in Capital funds,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby awards the bid to Frank Macchione Construction, Inc. for the 2021 Road Improvement Program – Phase 2 with a bid of \$392,280.58 providing funds are available.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Councilman Gierak - yes  
Councilman Accomando - yes  
Council President D'Arminio - yes

# 15-2021  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AFFIDAVIT**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52: 27BB – 10 and 40A: 4-57. I do hereby certify that funds are available and that the attached resolution can be adopted.

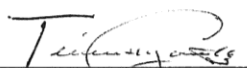
PURPOSE: 2021 Road Improvement Program – Phase 2  
\_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT 04-2150-55-1697-902  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUND General Capital  
\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$392280.58  
\_\_\_\_\_

PURCHASE ORDER NO. 99960  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Conte  
Chief Financial Officer

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKED BY \_\_\_\_\_

**\* CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Robert Klein, PE  
Remington Vernick  
Engineers**                      **Re:     2021 Road Program Sanitary  
Sewer Cleaning & Video  
Inspection Recommendation for  
Payment PO # 95693**

**To: Peter Lo Dico, Twp. Clerk     Date: August 16, 2021**

Attached please find Change Order No. 1 Final, Pay Certificate No. 1 Final & invoice submitted by National Water Main Cleaning Company (NWMCC) for the sanitary sewer cleaning and video inspection work completed through May 18, 2021. RVE has found all items to be reasonable and just and we therefore recommend final payment to be made to NWMCC in the amount of \$31,724.00.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

2. **Robert Klein, PE  
Remington Vernick  
Engineers**                      **Re:     Ductwork Insulation Installation &  
HVAC Control System  
Improvements Pay Certificate No.  
5 Final**

**To: Peter Lo Dico, Twp. Clerk     Date: August 16, 2021**

Enclosed please find Payment Request No. 5 Final, Change Order No. 1 Final, and two (2) year Maintenance Bond No. B1233362 from GMT Contracting Corp. for work performed on the above referenced project. Remington & Vernick Engineers has reviewed the certificate with the contractor and agree with the payment noted.

Therefore, we recommend the following that payment be made to **GMT Contracting Corp.** in the amount of **\$1,695.58** for Certificate No. 5 Final.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call our offices at (201) 624-2137.

3. **Robert Klein, PE  
Remington Vernick  
Engineers**                      **Re:     2021 Road Improvement Program,  
Phase 2 Recommendation to  
Award**

**To: Peter Lo Dico, Twp. Clerk     Date: August 26, 2021**



We have tabulated the bids received on Thursday, August 26, 2021 with reference to the above-captioned project and find the lowest bidder to be Frank Macchione Construction Inc., 141 Central Avenue, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662 in the amount of \$392,280.58 representing the base bid on the quantities for items #1-31 inclusive.

A copy of the tabulation is enclosed for your review.

Therefore, in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq, the contract should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, which appears to be Frank Macchione Construction Inc.

The award should be contingent upon approval of your Counsel and the availability of funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (201) 624-2137.

## **\* RAFFLES & APPLICATIONS**

### **Raffles**

1. RA# 1332 – Saddle Brook UNICO 50/50

### **Public Place**

1. Skyview @ Crowne Plaza – 50 Kenny Place - RENEWAL

## **\* REPORTS**

1. Municipal Court Monthly Report – July 2021
2. County Animal Control Report – April 2021
3. DPW Monthly Report – July 2021
4. Construction Code Official Report – July 2021
5. Property Maintenance Official Monthly Report – July 2021
6. Police Department Monthly Report – July 2021
7. Water Monthly Revenue Report – July 2021
8. Engineer Mid-Monthly Report – July 2021
9. Budget Status Report – July 2021

## **Old Business / New Business**

Regarding patriotism Mayor White mentioned someone contacted him via Facebook saying he wants to see Mayhill Street bridge get flags put on both sides. There was a couple flags that somebody placed there, and they got tattered in the flood, and we took them down, but he had mentioned something about flags there and also dedicating the bridge to the veterans or something like that. He mentioned the bridge on Outwater Lane that goes over the Passaic River as you're going into Garfield to Clifton and said there's a plaque dedicating it to veterans. He said this whole thing about patriotism has got me thinking. One thing I'd like to see, I know Todd had mentioned that he'd like to see some plaque there

Councilman Accomando said all the armed forces, ten armed forces and four American flags on both sides going down.

Mayor White said I think we're okay as long as we don't put them out when driving on Routed 80.

Councilman Accomando said they can be on the roadside.

Mayor White said one thing that some towns do is a Patriotism day or they have a contest where people decorate their own houses in patriotic flags and banners. That's something to consider. He noted in Fair Lawn they have that program where if you died in action they don't officially name the street after the veteran, but they put a bow above the regular street sign so they paint the pole blue and then the actual sign is red.

Council President D'Arminio said Elmwood Park does that too.

Mayor White said right, Elmwood Park does a lot of that, and then they also mentioned that they do have a banner program where they allow veterans families whether they are serving now or they did serve to buy a banner. We have banners now, but what we could do is I guess sell a banner for \$50 and then post that banner along the street on Market for a certain amount of time, a couple of months and then present that banner to the family. They do that as well. It would be a nice thing to do, moving forward maybe we can get a committee together and spearhead something. I think our veterans deserve it.

Councilman Cimiluca said when we had that meaning we were supposed to set a criteria, the proposed criteria was so stringent that I don't think anyone qualified.

Mayor White said the Congressional Medal of Honor. You had to die, and in Saddle Brook we don't have that many veterans that have died on the battlefield.

Councilman Cimiluca said and you'd have to get a request from that family so if somebody died in Viet Nam...

Mayor White said you'd have to research where they lived.

Councilman Cimiluca said it's fifty years since we were out of Viet Nam.

Mayor White said if you can even get those records. It would be a lot of work.

Councilman Cimiluca said we wanted the family to request it, but again a Viet Nam veteran killed in action in Viet Nam, that's fifty years ago. It would be their parents or possibly those people would be -- the criteria was so stringent that no one would bother.

Mr. Lo Dico mentioned we put a solar light.

Councilman Cimiluca said it rained for an entire month. He then said we had a special meeting the other night about the Affordable Housing on Rosal Lane which has been designated as an Affordable Housing site for years and years and years, and we had some concerned people that came out and they were concerned with the possible effect upon the school. It would be mostly on Long School, and we assured them that based on statistics and based on other projects that the amount of school children that this would generate would not be anything that would put undue stress or strain on the school system. Again any school children, we've got technically three schools that would be effected if they go to school in Saddle Brook, some people go to private school, but it would be Long School, the Middle School, and the High School, so if you think of 58 -- some of them are one-bedrooms, most of them. Some of them are two. There's not that many that are three, so more likely the three-bedroom units may produce some children, but again they may be under school age, they may be out of school age, they may have graduated high school or they may go to private school.

Councilman Cimiluca said some people were saying there's no transparency or lack of transparency, but this has been spoken about at many, many meetings, and I think it was when I first got on the council 13 years ago that we designated that area for Affordable Housing, so it's just a matter of time before it happens. The main thing is that all 53 go to our COAH obligation or Affordable Housing obligations. If a builder came in and wanted to make Affordable Housing, there's a five/four ratio, so they could build 250 units and then designate 50 as the affordable housing, but we'd have 250 units. So what we did through the work of the mayor, the administrator, Anthony Suarez our attorney and our planner came to a settlement which I think is great for the town because we did limit the amount, and it's going to be put in a spot where we've always wanted it for the last decade. That's where we said we were going to put the Affordable Housing, and that's where it's going to be. Good job all around, and for those people I think we allayed their fears that it wasn't to be totally burdensome on the school system. They were afraid that some of the kids, the class size would be too big and some of the kids would have to be moved to Smith School or Franklin School and be taken away from their neighbor to go to school someplace else, but just the statistics don't bear that out. We appreciate you trying to get as much information as possible, keep putting in on the Facebook page, keep putting it on the website to get more information. We said all

this was at the Planning Board, the minutes of all the Planning Board meetings or Zoning Board meetings or are or online, so please if you can't make the meeting, you can educate yourself on what's going on in town. Those are the best places to find out information. But thank you. Thank those residents for coming out and asking us questions and hopefully we gave you answers that satisfied. It might not be the answers that they were looking for, but they did have more knowledge coming out of the meeting.

Mayor White said through the chair there is an emergency entrance and exit, ingress and egress to that property by going through Sampson Street, that service road. There's going to be an easement by the property on the property owned by Muscarelle and a driveway as well. If there is flooding in that area by ACME, fire and ambulance can get in through Sampson. With the flood, they were on standby so fire and ambulance would be at the building anyway, but it is a concern so there would be a way to get in there.

Councilman Cimiluca asked Mr. Lo Dico for the DPW report and said the flood gates were put on the library.

Mr. Lo Dico said yes. The water went up driveway but to my understanding, it did get to the doors but the library was fine. There was no water.

Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public on agenda items only.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer                      Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes  
Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

Hearing no one, Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public on agenda items.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer                      Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes  
Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer                      Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes  
Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President D'Arminio – yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Lo Dico, R.M.C. CMC  
Township Clerk

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Karen D'Arminio  
Council President

Approved: October 7, 2021