

Council President Accomando – Meeting is open to the public anyone wishing to speak? Seeing no one motion to close.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer
Roll Call:

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Councilman Cimiluca – absent
Councilman Gierak – yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes
Council President Accomando – yes

ORDINANCES

1. ORDINANCE # 1754-24 SECOND READING

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF CAMBRIDGE AVENUE IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Council President Accomando asked that a motion is in order that the Township Clerk proceed to give same ordinance a second reading.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

The Township Clerk then reads the ordinance by title on second reading:

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF CAMBRIDGE AVENUE IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Council President Accomando – A motion is in order that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be opened.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Council President Accomando: Announces that the public hearing on this ordinance is open and that all persons interested may now have the opportunity to be heard.

Council President Accomando – Seeing no one.

Council President (after all persons have had an opportunity to be heard) states motion is in order that the hearing on this ordinance be closed.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Council President then directs the Township Clerk to read the resolution regarding final passage.

Township Clerk then reads the resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the ordinance entitled:

CR# 824-124

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF CAMBRIDGE AVENUE IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

does now pass on second and final reading and that the Township Clerk be directed to advertise said Ordinance or Title thereof, in the press, together with a notice of the date of passage of said ordinance according to law.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent

Councilman Gierek - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - yes

Council President Accomando - yes

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor White – I wanted to bring up that Blue Acres Mr. Homsy and Mr. Lo Dico have an update on that. We're just about at the point where I think we're going to be reimbursed for the two houses that we purchased under the Blue Acres program. Those were in flood areas.

Mr. Homsy – I can fill in on the environmental stuff they had environmental requirements in the reports that were required through our engineering firm. They supplied them everything over the past two days. All the results came back negative which is good from my understanding it's just for the State to review the reports and it's just the next step in the process. Mr. Lo Dico sent any documents that they required titles, deeds any paperwork it's all in review and hopefully we'll be receiving payment soon and close that project out.

Mr. Lo Dico – Once the titles were changed to what the State required it's moving that was really the holdup so we're set on that.

Mayor White – That's going to be a big reimbursement for the Town. We purchased the homes and now we're getting reimbursed.

Mr. Lo Dico – Twenty five percent.

Mayor White – Twenty five percent of what?

Mr. Lo Dico – Of the purchase.

Mayor White – Do you have any idea what that's going to be?

Mr. Lo Dico – It's about six hundred thousand in total it was three hundred five and three fifteen.

Mayor White – So we're twenty five percent of six hundred.

Mr. Lo Dico – Then as we do additional work they will reimburse us the same tearing down any other work we have to do.

Mayor White – Okay good. I wanted to mention that Sarah and I we went over and visited Mr. Brian O'Connor who lives on Poplar Street behind the high school stadium and we looked he wanted to show us there's a creek or a brook it's on the map. That's where the water goes from Route 80 comes down the water comes from there and also the high school area from the back field. That brook starts off behind the homes on South Leswing almost to the end not all the way to the but about three quarters of the way. The water is supposed to flow eastbound and it goes past the high school then it goes behind the houses on Rochelle Parkway dead end area and then it works its way across Mayhill and then eventually goes across Saddle River Road it goes into the Saddle River. It's not in good shape he mentioned that the night he was here when he spoke. It definitely needs some work so I've been in touch with assemblywoman Lisa Swain and the project the turf field project it's under review by the DEP right now so I'm sure they're reviewing the plan. I know the plan calls for retention basins and also water to be pumped in that brook and being that it is a flood zone I'm sure that they're going to scrutinize it. Speaking to some of the Board of Ed members I think they thought they were going to start this project in April and it's been held up. I know they're having games they started fixing up and seeding and watering the grass on the field because they're going to have to use it. If they were working on the field they were going to have to play all the high school football games away but they're not because it's being reviewed. She's going to look into that and she also wants to take a look her and assemblyman Tully and hopefully we can get some help from the State to at least clean it up. I hate to use the word dredge but it probably could be dredged but I don't know how you can even get machinery in there. It's between the wall on Route 80 and the people's homes on Rochelle Parkway. I would think that the very least get bodies in there to lift out and take out the debris that's there and try to desnag it and get it moving a little bit. He's lived there his whole life he's probably about 55 years old and he said when he was a kid it was flowing fine. There was fish and frogs and turtles and wildlife in there. None of that is there now I can tell you that. The other issue he brought up I am for the turf field I want to see them have a turf field I really do but the one point he brings up is that if we get a storm of the magnitude of Floyd or Irene that field is going to be under water I don't care what they do with the drainage. If that happens I would imagine I know they pin it down that field is going to be ruined I would think. Let's hope and we haven't had knock on wood anything that severe in years.

Mr. Lo Dico – 2011.

Mayor White – We've been fortunate but the weather being what it is so I just wanted everybody to know that. I certainly don't want to squash that and as long as the DEP is going to have to look at it and hopefully come up with some ideas but I do think we have a retention basin at our turf field at Veteran's but that's not a flood one. When it rains hard all the water goes into that basin under the field and then it slowly leeches out.

Council President Accomando – Probably ten years ago we did a detail for Ridgefield Park their runoff is down by the train tracks off of Route 46. It was the same layout here it was horrible. They had the DPW go back there with machines they dug everything out and as they dug it they had inmate labor we would go there every day and we would line

the sides with stone and wire mesh and they put more stone on top of that. It's ten years ago we've never been back and never had an issue.

Mayor White – If something like that could be done it would be really good. You know what's going to happen if the drainage is good in that area it's going to flood closer to the river and eventually maybe come back because once it gets flooded it gets pushed back but I think that area would be more protected from that heavy flooding Now it's not carrying the water quick enough.

Councilwoman Sanchez – There's nothing left of that ditch or stream it's all piled up so that no matter how much rain you get it just sits there it's not going anywhere.

Council President Accomando – There's no form to the stream.

Councilwoman Sanchez – No it really does have to be dug up.

Mayor White – Lisa was very gracious and she's going to do whatever she can. I spoke to our DPW Superintendent and there are times when he calls the State out and they do come out for any major but for something like this you need to do it politically through our legislators and get them to get the DOT to get out there and hopefully I wouldn't mind helping them out if we can with labor but they got the machinery that you need that will come from them so let's hope we can get something done there. It would be a relief for the residents there and would make you feel a lot better putting that turf field down and have a roll of the dice that we don't get a big storm. We're going to go about the area in need of rehab in private discussion. I wanted to give you a bit of an update with the rat situation. I've been in contact with Mr. Ascuitto he's been on vacation but we talked twice and he's very happy that we're taking it seriously which we are. His son is checking his house and unfortunately we had a little setback because he hadn't seen anything but I don't know how he knows the sex of the rats but he said the bigger ones are smarter and that the female came back and is underneath his air conditioning unit again. We did have on the corner of Graham and Burgess Drive there's a house that's being renovated. They went out the back they dug up the foundation Russ Kelley's son is building it and they have all the bait traps there but there was a couple of smaller ones found dead in the road near the curb last Thursday or Friday so the baiting traps are working. The more I think about it I don't understand it I'm not an expert and he did mention when he gets back he's going to get an exterminator. He's been trying to take care of it himself but it's beyond him and I recommend that he does that. I wish I understood it a little more I don't know why when we had the coyote problem we had the expert come in and we had a meeting and quite a few people came because everybody was afraid especially with coyotes. He explained what coyotes do and their habits. I think it helped a little bit but I wish there was I'm not saying at a meeting but maybe hire the Town exterminator that comes in here to get a little better understanding of it because I can't explain it. People say why is it you get some people and I talked to landscapers we always had rats. I've been living here my whole life I've never seen a rat so it's kind of alarming when you think about it. You know they're around but this is like an infestation I guess I mean people are seeing them there's got to be more. I guess they get pushed away from certain areas or you dig. Why is it you put the poison out why isn't it working it seems like it started in one area and it's an infestation and they call in the experts but they move. I guess the answer is they've been

around since before man probably they're very resilient. Why are we seeing them they've always been here I don't know and I guess you understand with the development you push them away and they have to go somewhere and there's 50 or 60 deer in that Riverside Cemetery I guess I just don't understand it. If I could have an expert explain how it works so when people come and ask us. We know what to avoid we give them that information out to the public you don't want to keep a lot of things on the ground you don't want a big mess in your yard you don't want high grass you don't want to feed them you don't want a bird bath all those things are understandable.

Council President Accomando – Maybe instead of having a meeting about it maybe we have our Town exterminator come and we'll say we'll have a seminar with regards to how to take care of rat problem.

Mayor White – Yeah have him come to a meeting and explain what it is because I feel foolish sometimes because I don't understand it. We had a lot of cats but I think the coyotes killed the cat problem but they moved on too that's another thing we haven't had a coyote sighting in years and they were seeing them all the time. Where'd they go somebody said you know maybe somebody killed them or something because I know the County wasn't going to do it but where'd they go?

Council President Accomando – Maybe they realized it was Saddle Brook and they went to Saddle River.

Mayor White – They say if they run out of food they move on that's all I have about the rat situation. The other thing that Steve had mentioned about this green team I kind of like the idea. I think Steve would be a great member but we would need to have some representation from the Town.

Councilman Gierak – Gayle Sikorski also mentioned the green team. She would like to be involved with that.

Mayor White – I think it's something we should consider and Steve would love to be involved right.

Mr. Mariconda – Yes.

Mayor White – Thank you for that not too many people that are willing to get involved and you are so I applaud you for that.

Council President Accomando – You left the last meeting you never leave until the meetings over. I wanted to talk to you and you already left.

Mr. Mariconda – It was running late Omar talks a lot.

Mayor White – I'll tell you what if you're a part of that green team you're going to have to listen to him complaining or at least asking you questions so be ready. He'll be ready.

Council President Accomando – We're going into closed session for personnel and negotiations.

Councilman Gierak – We have people here from the library.

Mr. Lo Dico – We should only be about fifteen minutes.

Council President Accomando – Motion to open the meeting.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent

Councilman Gierak - yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - yes

Council President Accomando - yes

Katherine Hybertsen the Library Director comes forward. I wanted to talk to you about the ordinance 1755-24 which you will be having a second reading for at your August meeting which is about parking on Congress Street. If you're not familiar with the area around the library the library's parking lot is in the rear of the library facing Congress Street. The library has always relied on parking on the street there to compensate for the fact that we don't really have an abundance of library specific parking so the library has two parking lots but they only have a total of 16 spaces in them. One of those is a handicap space. The staff and visitors to the library both park there and we've only had a second lot since 2019 so before that we only had 8 spots so we were really relying on the parking on Congress Street specifically to help meet the parking needs of the library and we just don't have enough spots in the lot to cover our needs especially I'm told that the timeframe in the ordinance is from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The library runs several reoccurring programs that happen at 10:30, 1:00, 11:00 am. Some examples of that include Chair Yoga and Mother Goose Time they're very popular. Chair Yoga averaged 19 attendees in 2024, Mother Goose Time 16. At any given time the library has two to eight staff members on duty so they're parking there. If we don't have the parking in the street there's nowhere for people to park. Even if I have my staff park somewhere else they would have to park on the street and they don't qualify to park on the street under the ordinance. Every once in a while the library has bigger events. We can have events the conference room has a fire code limit of 74 and we can fill that place up from time to time and they all park on the street. I know that suppers would not be included but the library has programs during those timeframes that attract large audiences throughout the year especially for daytime programs when people who come are seniors or parents with small children. If they can't park somewhere that's close to the entrance to the building they're not going to come to the building. The front has some street parking on Mayhill on the front entrance side but primarily the people who come to the programs come to the rear entrance because the two program rooms are when you come in the rear entrance off of Congress Street. They want to be parked close by they want to be able to get inside easily and if

they can't do that they're just not going to come. There is some parking right in front of the building that has some signs that says library parking only but those are actually not covered by ordinance so the library has no recourse if people park there for other reasons. The lot are covered by ordinance but again they're only 16 spots and realistically one is a handicap spot so there are only 15 spots. As long as I've worked at the library which is almost 19 years we've always parked in the street when we couldn't park in the lot so I lived through the one parking lot situation and the staff always parked in the street. We have the area right adjacent to the playground and the tennis courts is really popular spot so there are no houses there residents naturally are parking in front of their houses and that's particularly if you look at the half of Congress Street that goes towards Rochelle Parkway a lot of residents park in the street and I'm afraid, I appreciate the problem the library sees it as a problem too they park in our lot too and we don't want them there anymore than I'm sure the residents want the kids parking in front of their houses but I'm afraid if there isn't a provision or something for the people that are visiting the library we just won't be able to accommodate the people who want to visit. Even leaving aside the programs the library is open then so if I have 20 people here for Chair Yoga and five people to use the computer and take out a book we're up to 25 people. If I add in the staff we're up to 30. There are not that many spaces. My other concern is more tangential there is a playground there and the entrance is on Congress Street we always get the questions about it though the Township is responsible for the playground and people who come to visit it park on Congress because the entrance to the playground is on Congress so small children they're going to visit during 10 to 2:00 when the weather is nice. I don't know where they're going to park. My other concern is more if the ordinance only covers part of Congress Street that the kids are just gonna move up and park on the rest of Congress Street taking away any of the spots that would have been left and then we really won't have anywhere for our patrons to park. I appreciate the neighbors' concerns and I can think of a few things if you're willing to take suggestions from our point of view. Maybe changing the time frame to before the library opens. I know school arrival starts at 7:30 we don't open until 10:00 or changing the part of the street. I know it's especially a concern it's kind of a dead end of Congress Street we rarely have patrons parking that far down primarily we see people parking right next to the playground and the tennis courts. I just wanted to come and share the library's concerns about that with you guys and I hope that there can be a solution that can both accommodate the neighbors' concerns and also make sure that we can continue to provide parking for everyone that wants to visit the library and take advantage of the programs that the taxpayers are supporting and the library is putting a lot of time and resources into. Thank you for your time.

Council President Accomando – Maybe we could do library parking only on the south side of the street closer to the playground 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Councilman Gierak – The issue is and I'm all for it we just have to be able to enforce it.

Mayor White – How do we know whether they're at the library or they're senior kids?

Council President Accomando – Me and Councilman Gierak were talking before this when we went to school if you had a car you had to give your license, your registration and they gave you a sticker for your car to park on school property.

Mayor White – That’s still the way.

Council President Accomando – Oh it is because they have plenty of parking apparently these kids don’t want to walk to the front of the school.

Ms. Hybertsen – Only seniors from what I’ve been told are allowed to park in the parking lot.

Mayor White – I think most of the kids that are driving are seniors.

Ms. Fitzsimmons – My son will be driving soon he’s going to be a junior.

Mayor White – What they’re doing is the kids the school changed the policy where they have to go in front now. They can’t go in the side so the kids they don’t want to have to park in the parking lot and then have to walk it’s a bit of a walk so what they do is they don’t bother getting a permit and they just park by the library, by the tennis courts or by that area there which is right even with the front door. Then they just walk across and it’s a clear shoot right to the front door.

Ms. Hybertsen – It’s a mess in the morning I agree.

Mayor White – I think what’s going to happen is even if we don’t do anything the kids are going to park there anyway

Mr. Schettino – How about eight to ten no parking maybe we have to do that.

Mayor White – Maybe that’s a better idea. I know there’s some kids that come in late because they have no first period.

Mr. Schettino – Even that no first period would probably take it to nine thirty.

Mayor White – Yeah I think that’s the best bet.

Mr. Schettino – You can always change it if that’s not effective.

Councilman Gierak – Do the students go out to lunch and then they come back after lunch and they’ll park there I don’t know.

Mayor White – I know some of the residents are complaining about the parents too because the parents come and pick up their kids they go out the front.

Ms. Hybertsen – They park in the middle of the parking lot and not in a parking space it’s not great I get it.

Mayor White – That has to become the police problem they’re not supposed to be double parked like that. They’re worse than the kids sometimes. Yeah that might work.

Councilman Gierak – Eight to ten.

Mayor White – Yeah.

Ms. Hybertsen – That works for us.

Councilman Gierak – We'll see how it goes if it doesn't work we'll revisit it.

Mayor White – If we let's say did not make no parking at the end of the tennis courts on the west side of the street to the beginning of the parking lot. It looks like maybe six or seven cars park there would that be enough.

Ms. Hybertsen – Yeah and there's some right adjacent to the where the parking lot is so like there's some parking spots on the street that are adjacent to our parking lot so if we had that and they were allowed to park on the other side of the street too it would probably be okay.

Mayor White – I don't think the kids will to your point about them parking further south of the library where you said the residents park on the street.

Councilwoman Sanchez – Too much of a walk.

Mayor White – Yeah I think they want that because they love that convenience of just jumping out of their car they're probably late.

Ms. Hybertsen – I can definitely see that.

Mayor White – Your point is very well taken and while you're here I have to really commend you and the whole library staff you're doing a great job.

Ms. Hybertsen – Thank you very much.

Mayor White – A lot of new programs I see it I follow you on Facebook.

Ms. Hybertsen – We appreciate the links.

Mayor White – You post a lot of good stuff a lot of stuff with children. A lot of programs not just children adult programs that's all good stuff. I believe you're getting fifteen twenty kids in a program which is good. We like seeing that.

Ms. Hybertsen – To get more we need more parking. Thank you for your time.

Council President Accomando – Motion to close.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Council President Accomando – Motion to go into closed session.

Mr. Lo Dico – We're going into closed session for negotiations and personnel.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Council goes into closed session at 6:05 pm.

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

CR# 824-125

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook desires to meet for the purpose of a closed session to discuss negotiations and personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act does make an exception and allows a public body to hold a closed session to discuss these items,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the closed session to take place on August 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Building be closed to the public and the press and that the results of the discussion at the closed session will be released to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting on it in closed session no longer exists.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca – absent
Councilman Gierek – yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes
Council President Accomando – yes

The Council comes out of closed session at 6:37 pm.

Council President Accomando – Roll call.

Councilman Cimiluca – absent
Councilman Gierek – yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes
Council President Accomando – yes

Mr. Lo Dico – The action to be taken at this point would be to receive and file the letter from Chief Kugler and adopt the resolution for the extension for retirement.

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK
RESOLUTION APPROVING POLICE CHIEF RETIREMENT DATE**

CR# 824-126

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook and Police Chief Robert J. Kugler previously entered into a settlement agreement on September 20, 2023 outlining the full and final resolution of all matters relating to the employment relationship between them and setting forth an effective date of retirement of the Police Chief as September 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, due to issues processing the Police Chief's pension benefits, it is necessary to extend the present retirement date of September 1, 2024 to October 1, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that the effective date of retirement of Police Chief Robert Kugler be and is hereby extended from September 1, 2024 to October 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Kenneth Ralph, Esq., the attorney representing Chief Kugler, upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be placed in the personnel file of Police Chief Robert J. Kugler upon its passage.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Council President Accomando – Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - absent
Councilman Gierak - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes
Council President Accomando - yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk

Todd J. Accomando
Council President

Approved: September 19, 2024