The minutes of the regular Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on September 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Saddle Brook Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.

The Council President called the meeting to order.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

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

Mayor White – present Mr. Schettino – Twp. Attorney – present Mr. Klein – Twp. Engineer – present Mr. Homsi – Twp. Administrator – present

Council President Accomando – Please rise for the salute to the flag and remain standing as we remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001 and give a moment of silence in memory of Congressman Bill Pascrell.

The Council President announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all council members 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 Accomando – Motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

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

Council President Accomando – The meeting is now open to the public anyone wishing to speak.

Thomas Van Winkle of 128 Lincoln Avenue comes forward. I'm here to give my usual Mayor's Youth Group update. In August, the Mayor's Youth Group participated in the Mayor's Walk it was the last Saturday of August which was the 24<sup>th</sup> and then afterwards that same day they helped out with the Township Picnic and let me tell you they worked their tails off to help the people bring food and drinks to the people in tents particularly the seniors so I really do want to thank them for all their hard work in all they did that day at the picnic. Looking ahead we're going to have our next Mayor's Youth Group meeting on Saturday September the 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. It will be right here in this room in the Council Chambers. We do invite anybody in grades four through twelve and resides in Saddle Brook to join us for the Mayor's Youth Group. We've actually gotten a couple of new people to sign up recently so we're looking forward to coming together and talking about all our upcoming events in Town that we will be involved with particularly all the Halloween activities. Once again anybody that wants to register we have a registration form on our website sbmyg.weebly.com. We're also on Facebook, Twitter slash X and Instagram thank you.

Jean Chahine of Saddle Brook comes forward. I lived in this Town for over 25 years throughout those years I noticed a decline in services but not in my taxes. Two weeks ago we were here discussing the rat infestation. This problem was a big problem for the whole Town. We were presented by a sales pitch to choose our pest control company to take care of this problem. I take it very personally to spend thirty two million dollars on a brand new municipal building not addressing the issue or helping the residents. I believe that the leadership and the response for the rat infestation was too slow too late and there's no explanation why we have to come up from expenses from our pockets anyhow thank you.

Andrew Dziedzic of Saddle Brook comes forward. Two weeks ago there were dozens of residents here looking towards the Council for an action plan, next step criteria, deadlines, timelines, even a potential budget to fix this issue which has now stretched four even five districts in Town. One woman stated that it's never been like this in 48 years another man stated he caught about 30 rats in a span of four or five days and another woman was

here and repeatedly stated that she spent thousands of dollars and an additional homeowner said she's about to go into foreclosure with the amount of expenses she's had to personally expense for the issue and the only solutions that were provided was to put garbage cans lids on garbage cans, clean up your curb make sure that the bags are properly stored which is common information that can be found. So I really don't think spending three hours and wasting people's time on the issue that has been known for twelve, thirteen even fourteen months when they're continuing to call multiple departments leaving voicemails and not getting any sort of responses or call backs it's very disappointing. Our taxes continue to go through the roof the services are just not being provided and now we have a crisis in Town where come March or April you could have rats in every district and every neighborhood in every park and by all the schools. I continued to hear the Council state that they called the County that this person stated something from the State another County official they were trying to reach and another State official additionally that other towns have the same issues and that they're calling other towns but I don't think the homeowners and residents wanted to speak to County officials or State officials or people from other towns I think they came here as Saddle Brook residents seeking solutions from the Saddle Brook Council and didn't want to repeatedly be told that the County and State are not picking up the phone and don't have any solutions when you're here representing Saddle Brook not other towns not at the County level not at the State level. I found it absurd that the same political party at the Town level is the same political party at the County level is the same political party at the State level where if you don't call a County or State official they don't respond to you in two or three minutes that it takes days or weeks to get a response but when it's convenient for you to spend over thirty million without a referendum on a building you do it right away. When it's convenient for you to hire people and pay them three hundred thousand dollars you do it right away without any sort of communications or information.

Council President Accomando tells Mr. Dziedzic that his three minutes is up.

Kevin Hickey of Saddle Brook comes forward. I understand Chief Kugler is receiving a plaque tonight I just wanted to say a couple of things about him. I mean twenty nine plus years as a Chief I thought he did a great job and then I'd just like to remind everybody like I guess I'm on film and stuff that you know he was charged with corruption and obviously it never stuck he was vindicated he was exonerated and he was looking forward to coming back and being reinstated which I guess never happened I'm not sure why reinstated to active Officer in Charge duties. I'm not sure why it never took place and I'm actually shocked that he's even leaving now. I don't know much about it I haven't spoken to him about it but you know all that being said I'm just wondering did we ever even try to say hey can we reinstate him did we talk to the Attorney General's office and say hey we're the Council of Saddle Brook why isn't Kugler being reinstated he's obviously a well-liked man I mean I think everyone up here probably likes him and you know just a little further the judge that exonerated him was Judge Marilyn Clark she was a Supreme Court

judge and when it comes from the Supreme Court of course he's as innocent as can be. Last but not least like State Senator Joseph Cryan which was a Democrat interestingly enough he said in a tweet when is the AG's Office going to show some integrity and I found that was very interesting. I read the whole article obviously I'm not going to repeat it all I write it down because I can't remember stuff anymore but it's interesting because they talk about when is the AG's Office going to show integrity where I felt Kugler showed integrity his entire career. I mean the whole family has been nothing but good for Saddle Brook hopefully everybody agrees with me and I'm sure some won't but once again I just want to applaud Chief Kugler for his twenty nine plus years of service thank you.

Mr. Schettino – The question as to Chief Kugler not being able to return to active duty the Prosecutor's Office I think you may be aware they took over the oversight of the Police Department and the Governing Body has petitioned the Prosecutor's Office through my office on multiple occasions to have him return

Mr. Hickey – I didn't know that and I appreciate that.

Mr. Schettino – I just wanted to answer your question on multiple occasions through my office the Governing Body instructed me to petition the Prosecutor's Office to allow him to return to active duty and they refused to do so it wasn't the decision of this they agree with you they want him to return to active duty but we didn't have the authority absent the Prosecutor's Office giving us the ability to do so.

Sylvia Zottarelli of 236 Lanza Avenue comes forward. I spoke to a couple of members up there I'm not going to mention names I got conflicting stories so I don't want to call anyone a liar. Are we aware that our TV station is not working this is going on two months now. You can watch these meetings on YouTube I know a lot of people that don't even know how to find them on YouTube.

Mayor White – It's working now as of yesterday.

Ms. Zottarelli – Is it?

Mayor White – Yes as of yesterday it was a Verizon problem.

Ms. Zottarelli – I'm not blaming anyone I'm just saying.

Mayor White – It was a Verizon problem they had to come believe me it took us a lot of time Our IT guy spent much time.

Ms. Zottarelli – Okay thank you.

Omar Rodriguez of Saddle Brook comes forward. Council President, Mayor shaking their hands making mockery faces it is true when we said that it's over thirty million dollars on this Municipal Complex. I wonder if any of you have you ever seen in your papers the final bill how much this cost you don't have it none of you have it. I requested seven months and there is not a final number so none of you have the right to say that we're wrong. It's over thirty million dollars as far as I'm concerned and until I don't see the papers get me arrested like the last meeting get me arrested on September 5<sup>th</sup> when you see two hours and forty one minutes why would you guys were laughing about me at the last meeting that I was going to be arrested shame on you. Last time I checked Saddle Brook is part of the United States of America not part of China or the Soviet Union. Let me talk.

Council President Accomando – What are you talking about?

Mr. Rodriguez – Check the meeting I don't know you forgot that the camera was on when you guys were talking about me that the Mayor said it to you that you just got to get the signal just to say for me to sit down and if I wouldn't sit down I was going to be arrested. Shame on you check it out two hours and forty one minutes anyone at home can see it on YouTube.

Mayor White - Who said you were going to be arrested?

Mr. Rodriguez – Mayor check your words please.

Mayor White – Tell me so I don't have to check.

Mr. Rodriguez - Mayor you just mentioned to the Council President you handled well you started smiling and you said all you needed to say was for him to sit down and the police would take care of him. Please check yourself and mind your own words next time because the camera you might have thought that it's off but it was on. So what I was trying to say ladies and gentlemen is that we have solutions for the rats. We did the work but unfortunately they take everything political. I've been coming to the meetings for over three or four years and usually I didn't come to the regular meetings but I was coming to the work session but at the work session they let you talk all you want but at the Council meeting right here they want to put a time limit. There is serious things about the rats and I have solutions but first I just want to send a message to all of them they are professionals in here good professionals when the Council President just now and he might deny it you can see on TV that three hundred thousand for a business administrator yes we pay three hundred and I gave them the paperwork and I can give it again to them for an entire year we paid three hundred thousand dollars for a business administrator the highest pay in the State of New Jersey and we are not Franklin Lakes or Alpine the last time I checked the map. So let's be considered when the residents come right here this is a public forum

to express what is going on in Town. In Town what we need to do about the rat infestation if you allow me Council President and Mr. Mayor right now by this time with so many months we should have a rat map every time that the residents call the Health Department they should have pinpoint where the rats are.

Council President Accomando tells Mr. Rodriguez his time is up.

Mayor White says to give him another minute because he interrupted him.

Mr. Rodriguez – Soviet Union and China are not far away from Saddle Brook the I'm seeing it right here that's why on November 5<sup>th</sup> we need to get rid of these people incompetent people right here. So what we need to do on the sewer line we can put in the inlets we can put bait we can put mixture with paraffin. It's been used in other Towns and it's been successful. We also can use either grants or the Town pay for garbage cans to every single resident in Saddle Brook. If we have been able to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and we're willing to pay a million dollars for the medical benefits of a sitting Councilman sitting here that he get reelected he will get a million dollars from here and his family we should be able to give free garbage cans to all the residents in Saddle Brook. Another thing the way we got to limit the rat infestation how come the County hasn't cleaned the park in so many years. The Town should clean it and we should pass the bill onto the County.

Rich Caravaglia of 16 Saddle River Court comes forward. We have a water crisis every time it used to rain we flooded whether it rained one to three inches the water would be over the curb. I want to thank you Mayor for coming out and addressing the sewers and cleaning up the sewers and we wrote a letter I don't know if it went to you or to the Parkway but they put three sewers on the Garden State Parkway which has alleviated all the problems with the flooding. My question is how do we lose the flood designation for all the homeowners that are paying a thousand dollars a year to have flood insurance and I don't know how to get rid of it I've asked my insurance company to help me. We didn't flood for 500 years when I first bought the place over there and we flooded Floyd which I think everybody flooded but since you guys cleaned the sewers and I appreciate it we don't flood anymore so please help me and the 12 other homeowners to get rid of the flood designation off because it actually ruins the value of my house by at least a hundred thousand dollars because I have to tell anybody who buys it it's a flood zone.

Mayor White – We have a flood plain manager that we can ask them to reach out to FEMA.

Mr. Caravaglia – How could we get that removed?

Mayor White – Well the flood plain manager would have to.

Mr. Caravaglia – Would it take ten years or is it something that's going to take you know ten years I'll be dead.

Mayor White – I don't know that I wish I knew that but I don't.

Mr. Caravaglia – That's all I wanted to say.

Mayor White – I know that that's the avenue to pursue.

Mr. Caravaglia – I can't stand paying an extra thousand dollars a year like all the other homeowners thank you.

Mr. Schettino – I don't know if our engineer knows the answer about getting the designation change from a flood area.

Mr. Klein – I don't.

Mr. Schettino – It does involve the map being changed it's a question of how often they come down they are amenable to changing the map and how long you have to go without an issue. It's really based upon the flood plain so it's certainly something that I guess my office then will look into as well to find out exactly what it takes to have an area that has been previously designated as a flood are and have that designation removed as based upon what this gentleman stated that they no longer have a water problem.

Councilman Cimiluca – Through the Chair. Like the Mayor said we do have a Flood Plain Manager that we were able to save some people money on their flood insurance because of that because there's certain requirements so I'm going to ask if we can contact that Flood Plain Manager and if there's anything that she can do to help the residents in that area. I know there's a couple of other not only where Mr. Caravaglia lives on the court but along that same area that may be impacted by an old maybe outdated flood plain map.

Council President Accomando – Anyone else?

Tommy Hayes of Floral Lane comes forward. I just wanted to let the Council know and the public if you get to see this. We went last night to the Bergen County Commissioners meeting to bring up the topic of Bergen County Park system and try and get some answers as to what can be done, when something can be done. Before I tell you what they said I'm very unhappy that over 200 people could come to the meeting and complain about everything and only four of us went to the Bergen County meeting. I plastered it all over Facebook I spent about five hours in the park building a nice little collage of pictures to present to the County Board gave my three minute speech and I was very surprised

only four people would go to the County level when a lot of people felt like they weren't getting answers from you guys so I don't know why more people didn't think to themselves maybe we should go to the County level and express our concerns so with that they said that certain parks need a lot of work and that our park you guys have reported his for years Steve Tanelli said it takes years to get the working done which I don't understand that he put it off as we have nine thousand acres of parks so yours isn't the only park but they saw what was going on and I showed them how in the pictures the overgrowth is some areas up to thirty feet from the lake up to you know where you're walking you can't get down there. They've cut out maybe a dozen little five foot areas for people to go fishing but I expressed to them you know we like to have a blanket and lay it out under a shade tree and sit and look at the water. So they just assured me Mayor I think you said you had talked to another person that I forget his name and that he was going to do something about this. When I brought up the rat situation that could prioritize something being done about the brush down there. All I want to know all I want to ask you guys is to keep on them because they did tell us after the meeting that it's good that people come to the meeting and express their views so that it stays as a current topic so I was glad we went and I'm looking forward to seeing progress down there. If they told you they're going to do it they didn't give me a timeline but I suggested to them with winter coming it's a good time because there'll be no greenery thank you.

Steve Mariconda of 24 Harrison Avenue comes forward. I just want to make a request about an issue I've been pursuing about the light pollution. I was wondering if like there are some of the resources I provided for you guys if that can be published like just some of the Town info can be published for Town residents either on like the Facebook page or just the Municipal Website that's it thank you.

Council President Accomando – Motion to close the meeting to the public.

Mr. Rodriguez comes back up. Respectfully Council President I would like to ask you to show me a resolution where it says that it's just three minutes. Three minutes is just to orderly have a meeting but it doesn't say that you got to limit. I called the Division of Community Affairs in the State of New Jersey Mr. Attorney can you please make an interpretation of their resolution that three minutes just for everybody else to speak up but once they finish I can go back and respectfully request in three minutes I will like to speak about the rat infestation thank you. Council President will you allow me?

Mr. Schettino – Through the Chair. If you limit the public which by the way is a very common practice to only getting up once during each time the meeting is open to the public that's your prerogative. So you do not have to permit because once you allow one person you have to allow everybody else to get up a second time which is why they limit the number of times somebody can get up because you do have other business to conduct and if someone wanted to they could delay the meeting for hours by just having

people getting up and why not three times why not four times. If the practice here which is as long as I've been here is to limiting the person to getting up one time during each time it is open to the public you would need a motion and a second to allow it otherwise.

Mr. Rodriguez – If I may Mr. Attorney Council President I'm not going to speak until you allow me. When I called New Jersey Division of Community Affairs they said you are able to speak up twice per the State of New Jersey not three not four times Mr. Attorney we are under the formal government the strong mayor with council but this is a Council meeting. It's not you don't require let me remind you that you don't require on first and a second this is no motion it is just the Council President when he instituted at the beginning of the year every single resolution they just carrying it over from prior years. At this moment I'm not asking for anything out of the ordinary actually it's just three minutes everybody else has spoken up no one else is at the podium so I'm just respectfully requesting to speak another three minutes and that will be it.

Mr. Schettino – Again through the Chair it is absolutely inaccurate to say that the State Statute allows the public to get up twice during one public session. It's absolutely untrue in fact.

Mr. Rodriguez – Just to finish.

Mr. Schettino – Well you did finish.

Mr. Rodriguez – I didn't mention a statute.

Mr. Schettino – Well that's what controls the Open Public Meetings Act is a State Statute and that determines what the public can and can't do. For example, the public has the right to be present during meetings and they have the right to make comments during the meetings but in actuality even though again it's common practice when the Council or the Governing Body has information to respond to a question there's not even a right to ask questions and demand answers because the statute doesn't provide for that it just provides that the public is allowed to be present and they're allowed to make comments. In terms of the time three minutes is a customary time that most municipalities limit the public to participate in especially when you have large group of people because maybe many people want to speak and as to the number of times they get up it is extremely in my over thirty years of experience I've never seen a municipality allow it more than once during each public portion. For example tonight when there's a second reading on the ordinance it gives you another opportunity to get up and address the Council on the ordinance and so to say that you can get up twice during any one segment of the meeting is not accurate it's not permitted only if the Governing Body is going to allow it and again once they allow it for you they have to allow it to everybody.

Mr. Rodriguez - Would you be so kind to show me the document please?

Mr. Schettino - I don't carry statutes around with me.

Mr. Rodriguez – I can give it to you in one minute it doesn't say that sir I have it.

Mr. Schettino - Do you want me to answer your question?

Council President Accomando – We've got to finish this meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez – Town Clerk has it you can read it, it doesn't say that it's a maximum of three minutes. I read it three times that is the resolution. All I'm asking is three minutes and I'm just going to concentrate on the rat infestation because it's hundreds and hundreds of people that are suffering because of this and it's putting a lot of expenditures and I believe there is an easy solution to this. It's up to you whether you want to pony up or just let the residents handle it on their own. I believe that the Town we should come as a one as a community and try to save those families out of this rat infestation. Could you allow me to at least give me two minutes Council President on this subject only?

Council President Accomando – I will give you three minutes but let us finish this part of the meeting we have a presentation if you want to come back I'll give you the three minutes because you have a solution. If you have a solution that can help us alleviate the rat problem I have no problem giving you three more minutes but you can't come up here and yell act all crazy because you see how you just spoke.

Mr. Rodriguez – You can call me all the names how can I not be upset when they censor me? Check the video.

Council President Accomando – I'm not calling you names just speak like we're having a conversation it comes out clearer. Did you see the video on YouTube?

Mr. Rodriguez – On the TV.

Council President Accomando – Whatever I didn't watch the TV I watched it on YouTube I couldn't understand you.

Mr. Rodriguez – Two hours and forty one minutes you can watch it.

Council President Accomando – I don't know what two hours and forty one minutes is but you couldn't understand it. It was just yelling but when you speak like this I can understand everything you're saying and you come clear.

Mr. Rodriguez – So let me just finish two minutes.

Council President Accomando - Could we just get to the Chief?

Mr. Rodriguez – Sure.

Mayor White – Chief do you want to go now or do you want to wait? I want you to be comfortable.

Chief Kugler comes forward. Honorable Mayor Robert White, Council President Todd Accomando and Township Council members, Professional staff and equally important the Township of Saddle Brook. I come here tonight and under three minutes it took me forty years to say I'm leaving. I can tell you that I've been blessed being the police officer here in this community for forty years, community that I love, community that my father loved lifelong resident born, raised and will die in this Town because we get a good deal at the end but I can tell you that I'm blessed to have this current Mayor and Council because what I've been through in the last three years was unfortunate but you stood up you had my back you called it out for what it was. We're not here to dwell on that we're here to dwell on the future of the Saddle Brook Police Department. Captain John Zotollo was in a room with many police officers here and I don't want to take the credit from our Mayor who has yet to make that decision but you're in good hands here. You're in good hands with the future of this department. We had great officers. After forty years it's a different landscape you even got rats not to make fun of the rats it's an issue that the Town is trying to help you with. I've been blessed and I want to thank each and every member of the Police Department both current and past. It's been a legacy that I inherited I loved what I did but it's time to move on it's just time to move on. I've held the ascension up for thirty years enough is enough Chief get out of the way. I'm blessed I'm blessed people not going anywhere I will be here to commend the Police Department and also challenge the Police Department because like I said it's a changing landscape. The reality is that the current force has only four officers with more than twelve years' experience. That was probably my fault for not recommending hiring to get more officers that had time on knowledge of the community but these young officers know their job they know what to do. The supervisors and commanders I trust them I know them. You hold them accountable Mayor and Council. These police officers will serve to the best of their ability. I want to thank each and every resident for the trust given to me to be your Police Chief and I hope that when I inherited the Police Department when I inherited the Police Chief's job I leave it equal or greater and that's my goal. My goal has been completed I will move on I don't know where I'm going. I'm sorry I missed the beginning when my good friend Kevin Hickey gave a spiel about me I think he showed me some notes I don't know but did he say I was commended that's what I wanted to hear Kevin I want to hear that I was commended.

Mr. Schettino – He said you were the best Chief the Town ever had.

Mr. Kugler – That's good stuff whatever he said about the high school days don't believe him because.

Mr. Hickey – If you give me another three minutes I'll continue.

Mr. Kugler – No shouting out from the audience please. Because the records don't exist anymore. All joking aside Mayor and Council the most important thing I said was that in the last three years you know what we went through you had my back. You called out things for what they were. It was unfortunate but we got through it and on September 30<sup>th</sup> my last day as a Saddle Brook police Chief actually the day before I'll be on the Market Street Fair so if anybody wants to come and say goodbye for a last handshake photo op please come September 29<sup>th</sup> but on October 1<sup>st</sup> I join the retired line of officers. Once again thank you Saddle Brook for the opportunity to serve you I hope I did to the best of my ability and I hope to God that we continue. We are in tough times right now nationally globally but Saddle Brook is always dear to my heart and I know the Saddle Brook Police Officers that I leave behind will treat every citizen the way I did will continue to serve to the best of their ability and may God bless each and every one of us thank you very much.

Mayor White – I just want to congratulate my good friend Bob Kugler and his family and I want to thank you Chief for the 40 years of service just about 40 years of service to the Township. You know I wanted to put a few words down and of course I probably have more than I should but I always talk too much but this is near and to me the Chief and I are good friends and we worked together for many years and he's a great guy besides being a great Chief but what I came up with was that you know what he's been the Chief for just about 30 years and a lot has changed. I remember I was I got hired before Bob did I got hired in 1982 and Bob in 1985 but really policing has changed a lot and the Chief led us through all that. So through his leadership we really saw that he modernized the Police Department and elevated the status of our department. Chief you put Saddle Brook on the map he truly did. No one knew much about Saddle Brook before you became Chief in 1985 and that's the truth. I was here I worked here even the Mayor and Council we were just another Town and you really didn't hear much about us but he brought the Police Department into the modern era. Some of the things he did he increased training and emphasized this is very important emphasized community oriented policing. We didn't have that before he was Chief it was just basically all about just enforcement there wasn't much at all dealing with the public other than when you had to. Either you made an arrest or you had a call but nothing else. What he did was he implemented a lot of programs and the programs he implemented were to build partnerships between the police and the community. Crime prevention Community Policing Bureau he was the one who formed the Community Policing Bureau. Before he was Chief we didn't have that and that was important because they had programs like Safety Town, National Night Out, DARE which

ended up turning into LEAD later on. Then the SRO program the School Resource Officer that was all implemented under Bob and also now most recently we have Special Law Enforcement Officer threes in all the schools and that was Bob's initiative Bob and mine I like to I can take credit for that along with the Council but that was one of Bob's big initiatives to get the Police Officers in the schools and believe me the parents appreciate it especially with all the violence going on in this country. So we got officers and I say we I like to take a little credit I was his Deputy Chief but we got officers from behind the wheel of the police car and implemented bicycle patrol, walking post and we encouraged the officers to be one with the community. Bob also implemented he started using problem solving techniques to address public safety issues in a proactive manner. That was never done before. One of the biggest things that he did was he enhanced public communications developed the department website Facebook page and you know he said what's the big deal he was one of the I think we were the first one in Bergen County to have a website. So you were cutting edge he was ahead of his time. So he invited reporters this was never done really in Bergen County invited reporters to headquarters utilized the media to get information out never done before. He issued press releases and public safety announcements. Also you ushered in Nixle which is public alerts and also reverse 911 notifications. That was all done you know it seems like now we take it for granted but that never existed. You used our Town's public access Tv to do informative videos on a program you named Chief's Chat. You would have different also too a big thing is and I still hear about it from different law enforcement. How could anybody forget our DARE we had our DARE videos. Lenny Azarone God rest his soul was he was the videographer and he would shoot these videos but these videos I hear about it even from different law enforcement and from students that were there and you know they still have the video they play it once in a while when I think it was sixth grade when they graduated the DARE program they all got the video. So during his 30 years as Chief he's also embraced diversity. The first women officers were hired, Lieutenant Rivero being the first female sergeant also. The first black officers were also employed and sergeant Littlejohn was the first to be promoted to a supervisory position. Chief your priority has always been the residents of Saddle Brook and you have given a hundred percent to protecting and serving them. Your passion was helping people and your door was always open to everyone members of the public, organizations whose mission it was to help people and fellow officers. You were always fair and treated people with dignity and respect. Because of your friendly personality and willingness to listen you developed friendships with quite a cast of characters many of which still keep in contact with myself and the Chief. So Chief I don't know if we'll ever be able to find someone with your drive and commitment you're really an impossible act to follow. I wish you continued success you and your family in your retirement and all your future endeavors. I have a plague now I'm going to read it. Presented to Police Chief Robert J. Kugler for 40 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Saddle Brook Police Department and the residents of Saddle Brook with great honor and recognition thank you and congratulations on your retirement Mayor Robert White and Township Council.

Chief Kugler thanks everyone and takes pictures with the Mayor, Council and his family. Councilman Gierek – I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chief and I also want to recognize the three people in the room I'm sure there's more that never wavered in support for you and that's your wife Chris and your daughters Shayna and Kaila. They never wavered you know that and there's a lot of other people as well but I have my wife and daughter here they always have our back so congratulations and best of luck.

Councilwoman Mazzer – Chief I too would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many years of compassionate and dedicated service and leadership to our community. It certainly has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve with you for the past 24 years that I've sat up here. I can truly say that you've always had the safety and best interest of our Township at heart. I wish you all the very best good luck in your future endeavors may God bless you and your family always and you surely will be missed. Thanks again Chief.

Councilman Cimiluca – Chief again thank you for your service congratulations and good luck in your retirement. It's going to be strange not having a Kugler in public office with your dad when I came here I kind of I definitely looked up to him as a mentor. We disagreed on a lot of things but he certainly was a good role model to me and to the community as you have been so again good luck in your retirement.

Council President Accomando – Chief I do also want to wish you the best in your future endeavors great retirement and I got to be careful what I say because you know people are watching so But I look forward to hopefully one day working alongside you and see where that takes us. I just wish you the best your family the best and enjoy it because we're only here for a little while. I don't have to tell you you've seen people come and go I just wish you all the best.

Mr. Lo Dico – Through the Chair. I don't normally speak when somebody's retiring but in Chief Kugler's case I remember Chief when you were hired I was on the Council at the time I can't believe it's 40 years already. I had the privilege of serving with your father when he was Mayor and as a Council member. I've had the privilege of watching you become Chief working with you in various capacities wish you and your family nothing but the best congratulations.

Mr. Dziedzic – I just want to thank the Chief for all his years of service. I believe he was definitely one of the few people in Town morning, afternoon, evening, Sunday to Saturday you can always get a hold of him he'd always follow up he'd always do the right thing or he'd always find a solution to your situation. I hope and pray relatively soon that he won't be retired that he'll have maybe a little bit more responsibility hopefully not more stress running 70 municipalities from Allendale to Wyckoff as Bergen County Sheriff and I think

it's a shame for someone who's always willing to be there to serve to be fit for duty that he wasn't allowed to for three years because of corrupt politics and corrupt politicians. I want to thank you again and I hope and pray that these 70 municipalities from Allendale to Wyckoff will be able to have your service starting in January thank you.

Tom Hayes - Bob I want to congratulate you and your family. I've known you for a lot of years not 40 but I know you as a friendly Police Officer who's there for the people and that's very important and there's one thing you left out Mayor, Bob is responsible for bringing the Police Officer For The Day to Saddle Brook. He let my daughter with special needs become a Police Officer for a day she cherishes that memory and that uniform forever. It means a lot to my family and anyone else that you've bestowed that honor to. So I want to thank you for that I wish you good luck in your retirement.

Thomas Van Winkle – Chief I want to congratulate you as well. You weren't just a Police Chief but a true community servant just every event you were there just all your commendable service to protecting our Town. There's not really too many more words I can say I mean it's hard to put into words all you've done for our Town and I wish you all the best of luck going forward to you and your family thank you.

Omar Rodriguez – Chief the best of luck on your retirement but soon to be a new job in January hopefully. We go a long ways decades ago when I moved into Saddle Brook one of the first families I met was the Kuglers. He's an icon in Saddle Brook. I run for office Latino they were you can count them on your hands at that time when I came to Saddle Brook. When I met Ed Kugler he made me feel like family and I was wishing to be adopted and change my last name. Needless to say years later I convinced him to run on a ticket with me. Then little by little day by day month to month I start knowing the family and Chief Kugler made us so proud throughout the years in Bergen County to the hard job that he put in dedication. Ed Kugler is basically one of the first Mayors in Saddle Brook. Chief Kugler one of the best Chiefs Chief Zotollo you got big shoes to fill in but I'm sure that you will do the job and all the Police Department will do a great job but now Chief and all the family the best of the best from the bottom of my heart thank you.

Mike Nahay – Don't let this youthful face fool you I've been a longtime resident of Saddle Brook 63 years and one of the first people we came to meet was the Kugler family especially the dad Mr. Kugler and from the beginning we had a tight bond with the Nahay and the Kugler family throughout the many years. I was the oldest brother of seven and everybody knows the younger siblings especially my brother Tommy they had a click together Bobby was a part of that click I believe but all I want to say is that with this passing of time the landscape has changed as Bob has mentioned but I also see not only a friend but a family friend moving on so I'm here to say thank you. I just want to give everybody my heartfelt thanks to the Kugler family has done well for the Town Bobby especially in his position hopefully he'll succeed for the next and I just want everybody to know what you see is what you get with Bobby Kugler thank you.

Omar Rodriguez comes forward. First I believe I know I just have three minutes and I'm going to try to be as guick as possible. We should institute a rat map. Every time the Health Department or the Property Department that is taking care of these calls it should be pinpoint where actually they are moving around. Basically right now by my own personal knowledge and seeing this I believe it's mostly in District 6, 7, 8, 9 I don't know if they're moving a little bit into 10 but if we got a rat map I at least we should pinpoint how to address it. Maybe part of the problem if we want to lead by example is a big problem with the County Park. I know you guys are trying to do your best there is no response. Is there any possibility because the homeowners if they don't see you cleaning even though that is not you the residents don't know who owns the park it's County Park but it's in Saddle Brook. Can we direct it's the legal department direct our DPW workers to clean it and then bill the County like we do with certain homeowners or businesses. It's just food for thought it's nothing crazy if they haven't done it in so many years why can't we just clean it and then bill the County for not doing their work. Another one in the sewer inlets if this work in different municipalities and also different states on the sewer inlets we can put bait along with paraffin and it works because right now I believe even though that I'm not an expert by what I was just reading different states when the land gets disturbed they try to leave the place where they were living and they exit and go and look for new places or new locations. First and foremost and I don't want to go into the naysaying but I believe it was said a lot of things at the last meeting on September 5th but I believe that we should put more teeth, power and increase the fines if possible because it is not fair if some residents are cleaning their homes that some others left theirs dirty for years. How can not an inspector that we have a Building Department here in Town cannot take them to court. I can even mention right now addresses that have been empty for years and rats are coming out of there. How can we not take the law into our own hands I heard Mr. Attorney to say on September 5<sup>th</sup> that the legal process is complicated and it takes too long but we should find ways and manners to protect the residents. If I'm doing my job why should I have to suffer the consequences of my neighbor that is not cleaning. So we should enforce the law and if possible and they not coming to court or paying the fines why not to put a lien on the property. May I continue or just leave it?

Council President Accomando – You did a great job

Mr. Rodriguez – No more thank you very much I got more maybe next time I will answer more but then is something we should do something about. Thank you all have a good night.

Mitchell Rubenstein of 133 Lincoln Avenue comes forward. I have a question about how we incorporate flooding considerations into zoning decisions. I say this especially

regarding the assisted living facility it sounds like it's another eight story building. I'm not necessarily concerned they'll flood I'm concerned that everything by Saddle River Road will be consumed by more flood water because so many more people will be using water and there will be so much more concrete. So not just about that building but all zoning decisions.

Mr. Schettino – I can answer that. So presently there already are statutory requirements that someone appears before a board for approval for a project of any size they have to submit a drainage plan and that drainage plan is reviewed by the engineer for the board and the plan has to show that there is no increase in water coming off the property that existed before and in fact in many cases they want zero runoff. So there are already laws on the book and if you ever go to a Zoning or Planning Board meeting and listen to an application you'll hear part of the testimony about the drainage plan. The drainage plan is prepared by the applicant reviewed by the board's engineer the board engineer may say you have to make some revisions to it but there is already requirements that have to be satisfied with respect to any development in this community and any community throughout the State of New Jersey.

Council President Accomando – Motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

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

## COMMENTS

Mayor White – Mr. Rodriguez I want to address you on a couple of things but I'm going to get. I want to correct him on one thing when he talked about rodent bait being put in the catch basins that is illegal now. He's right fourteen years ago when he was on the Council that was something that could be done but we did check into it and I don't know if the public wants to check if you go to News 12 West Orange there was a story about them they have a rat problem and that was brought up and I believe it was the Mayor speaking mentioned that they checked with the Department of Environmental Protection and they're not allowed to put bait traps in the catch basins. The problem with that is the bait is poison that water ends up going to the river and contaminates the river so that was one thing. Yes fourteen years ago when Councilman Rodriguez was a councilman that might

have been true but not anymore. I'll get into further with the rodent control program but right now I want to start by September is National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month so I have a proclamation.

Whereas the Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month celebrates and highlights the countless achievements in the Hispanic and the Latino Community the observation began in 1968 It was enacted into federal law on August 17th 1988 Hispanics have enhanced and shaped our national character with old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community so now therefore be it resolved on this day I Robert D. White the Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook do hereby Proclaim September 15th through October 15, 2024 as National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month. I encourage our community to join us in celebrating the great contributions Hispanics and Latino Americans have made in our Township, State and our Nation.

I want to start by mentioning the sale of the old Town Hall and Police Department. Our committee has met with our Town Planners on several occasions and based on our input the committee's input the planner is drafting a Redevelopment Plan. We would like to see we're trying to push for something that would like what went across the street at Ed's a commercial property four stores I don't know how many we're able to fit but we're looking to put commercial on the bottom and residential on the top like the old Ed's Tavern like what's there now. Once a plan is complete we will bring it before the Council to consider for formal adoption so that's where we're at right now and I would say over the next few months we're going to be moving along and hopefully getting someone to purchase and develop that property. The rodent control update. I want to read the steps that we've taken so far and some of them were things that were mentioned by Mr. Rodriguez but they've already been done. The following is a list of specific steps taken by the Township to combat the rodent problem. Number one the Health Inspector and property Maintenance Officer are dispatched to all rodent sightings and complaints to investigate and locate the source and potential cause. Number two a pest control company has been hired by the Township to inspect all Township properties and treat them if necessary. Number three a staff member has been assigned to manage, pinpoint or track and follow up on all rodent complaints. That was what Mr. Rodriguez was saying about pinpointing areas. I do differ he mentioned a couple of districts that I don't believe that there are infestations. Number four additional staff members have been assigned to help enforce property maintenance and health regulations. Number five Township ordinances are being reviewed and amended where necessary to address the issue. For instance adjustments are being made to building permits, garbage collection and wildlife feeding. Number six the Township collaborates with a dedicated group of residents committed to resolving the problem. The woman was here Mrs. Deradorian she left but she heads that committee there's six women that I've been communicating with regularly and they are getting the word out about this and the other notices that we've been putting out and really they've been a great help in getting the word out so people know and understand what's going

on. Number seven other municipalities facing similar challenges have been contacted to learn about their approaches to the problem and to solve the problem. Number eight rodent and pest control notices have been posted on the Township website and Facebook page to request the public's assistance in mitigating the problem. Regarding this I do believe and we had a committee meeting with Mrs. Deradorian and her group before this meeting and I do believe when she says that there are people that they're not reporting it to the Town so it's difficult to pinpoint. I don't know if they're embarrassed please don't be embarrassed we really want to know where the problems are so we can address it. We actually only had since the time we had that meeting two weeks ago we've had three complaints involving rodents and two of them involved actually well there was one this week a dead rat was found I don't want to say the location it was in the north section by the tree streets on the Fair Lawn border it doesn't matter Spruce Avenue. There was a dead rat in the road and somebody called in front of the house and we had animal control come and pick up the rodent. Also about a week ago we had a gentleman on Platt Avenue that reported that overnight on his Ring Doorbell I guess he saw some activity he thought he saw something that looked like a rat but it could have been something else as well he wasn't sure it was a distance away so that was the second and the third one was a resident called on Bella Vista about a property nearby that he felt that the backyard was overgrown and there was sheds and a possible haven for rats. That was checked out and at this point I don't know what the outcome was but we had the Health Department and our Property Maintenance go and take a look at that. Number nine we have discounts on pest control services Excel Pest Control that was here two weeks ago that did the presentation. They are giving a hundred dollars off the initial fee normally it's \$295 they're doing it for \$195 plus a monthly fee. Saddle River County Park update Tommy Hayes came up and spoke about that. There is going to be a meeting at our next work session with Parks Director Craig Dorsett and some other representatives. That'll be October 3rd Council Work Session starts at 5:30. They're going to discuss the proposed playground also the County has received one million dollars in State funding for the pond restoration so that's probably going to be towards flooding concerns. As far as clearing the overgrowth that's along the pond that is something that Mr. Dorsett said that they would I mean I've been ten years I've been at this trying to get them to cut back and I always got an answer of no they couldn't do it because of runoff and other things but Craig he's a new director and he seems willing to help us out with that and to cut back a lot of that overgrowth. As far as routine maintenance goes they really have been much better. When we call they do come out for when we get a call the bathrooms aren't working or something like that or garbage they do come out right away. The next topic is road resurfacing and I want Bob our engineer to give a quick update on what's going on with the Road Program.

Mr. Klein – The Road Program construction began last week on Lincoln Avenue and Van Orden. The order for the next street hasn't been determined yet because Ash and Elm

are PSE&G are planning to work there so we're coordinating with them to see where they're at but it is underway and it is moving. I would expect it to take most of the fall.

Mayor White – Thank you. The Garden State Parkway bridge over Saddle River Road they're halfway finished with that project the work is going to start the beginning of October the first weekend in October weather permitting. They need to have a good weekend to get through. There can't be any rain or any wind and thunderstorms but it's going to take two more weekends to complete. Events that occurred the Town Picnic was Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank all of our sponsors there's a big sign that was posted on the pavilion so I want to thank all of them for their generous donations. Thank the Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, DPW, Shannon Accomando, Christine Genuario of the Projects and Activities Committee, Pete Lo Dico thank you. Also the second annual Junior Police Academy was August 19-23 the graduation ceremony was Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup> and kudos to the Police Department they did a fabulous job on that. It's a really good program that was something else the Chief and I were talking about for years and we finally did get it done. You can take credit for that too Chief. The 911 Ceremony was Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> it was the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and it's important to teach our children especially the children the history of 911 because all of the kids in school now they don't know they don't remember they weren't alive so we have to make sure that they remember. I want to thank all our first responders, the Saddle Brook Band and Chorus, Lydia Diaz for singing the National Anthem. We had the Grand Reopening of ACME on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> congratulations they did a fabulous job on the renovations. I don't know if anybody's been in there but it really looks nice and I want to thank ACME for consistently supporting the Township by donating and sponsoring to our events. I want to thank Councilwoman Mazzer and Councilman Cimiluca for joining me along with Business Administrator Jimmy Homsi and Clerk Peter Lo Dico. Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church held a car show and motorcycle show on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> this past Sunday congratulations to them on another successful show. I want to thank them for their generous donation to VFW Post 3484 of Saddle Brook. Upcoming events the shredding event is Saturday September 28th in the parking lot here 55 Mayhill from nine to one. The UNICO Street Fair is Sunday September 29th on Market Street between Westminster and Mayhill I'm not sure of the time I think it's ten to three. Leaf bags are going to be available beginning in October. Fire Prevention Week is October 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Washington School has their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 5:00 pm Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Townwide Garage Sale is Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> through Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>. Town Hall and DPW are closed for Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day. Section one grass clippings will be picked up Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>. October 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote in the general election Town Hall will be open until 9:00 pm for paper registration and leaf bags will also be distributed to residents who want to pick them up. Some miscellaneous things Community Development Block Grant our application I just received a letter from the County Executive that our Third Street improvements Project has been approved and we were awarded \$123,000 for that project. I just want to mention the loss

of a longtime resident Kay Swaney. Kay was a fixture at St. Philips always there a real nice person. Her and her husband Danny raised their six children here in Saddle Brook and she was always a pleasant person and always had a smile always willing to help so my condolences to the Swaney family. The only other thing I have I just want to address Mr. Rodriguez when he mentioned about me having him arrested what I did say was and I didn't really remember it but what I did say is that I told Council President Accomando that he did a good job and could have had the Police Officer remove Mr. Rodriguez but that Council President Accomando did the right thing and what I meant by that was Mr. Rodriguez's behavior was somewhat irate but I also felt that Council President Accomando exercised good restraint and it would have been the wrong thing to throw him out but he could have. I've seen that happen in other towns so that's what I meant by it that was exactly what I said so thank you.

Councilman Gierek – I just want to mention the Township Picnic and I just want to thank all the volunteers that participated the Mayor's Youth Group along with Shannon Accomando and Christine Genuario. It was a success the lines were a little bit longer than we would have liked I think we'll work on that for next year but I think everybody had a great time it was well attended and I just want to thank everybody that participated in that. I also want to commend our Mayor Bob White with this whole rodent issue. I know he's been working diligently for a long time trying to help our residents and council supports him a hundred percent and I really appreciate his hard work. I'd hate to say sleepless nights at times but I know you're on top of it and we trust what you're doing and we know that you don't take any complaint lightly and you answer every single complaint that comes to your door so Mayor thank you very much. We're going to have a Flood Committee Meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> that's a Tuesday that will be here at 6:30 the Municipal Complex. So anybody that would like to participate in the Flood Committee please come on October 22<sup>nd</sup> it's a Tuesday evening at 6:30. That's all I have for now thank you.

Councilwoman Mazzer – I too would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made our big event a success. Every year we try to tweak it a little bit change things around but again it would not be possible with all our Township employees and all our volunteers and of course the donations from businesses and residents. Once again thank you to everyone that's it right now.

Councilman Cimiluca – Two Council people had mentioned about the picnic and although it was a great success with success there's always a little bit of things that can be tweaked and certainly we have heard complaints about the lines that were very long. I believe that the vendors are told approximately how many people are expected to attend and I would think now I'm not I the food business but I would think that if you know or you're told how many people are expected to attend that you would kind of par cook sausage and peppers par cook a burger or something like that so this way when people come there it just takes a shorter period of time. Now I guess to their credit they gave everyone fresh food so that's why it took so long because everything was being cooked from scratch. So when you ordered a sausage sandwich they said okay two sausage sandwiches and they put it on the grill. I'm not sure if that's the best way to do it but we know where the problem lies and we are trying to address it. So to those who waited in line a long time for your food we apologize but we hope you finally enjoyed it because not many people got off the line to be honest with you they waited. Whoever didn't come to the concert series missed out we had four great concerts. We had two local bands they were awesome, we had an Elton John cover band and we had 80's Explosion and they put on quite a show. Unfortunately, I was disappointed honestly about how many people showed up perhaps it's on us we've got to do a better job of getting the word out there. So once next year and I hope we're going to do it again I think we will when you hear about these concerts spread the word. I'd like to see a bunch of people there a lot more we see other towns they get a whole bunch of people. I think one of the issues is our parking lot is so huge it looks like everyone's spaced out so it doesn't look like there's a lot of people so maybe that's just in my own head that there's not enough people there I'd like to see some more people there. So get it out spread the word and help out because it's a great community event. The Car Show was this weekend that was great and Mount Virgin put on a good show as always. With Council President's permission I've got a question about one of the resolutions that are on tonight it's for handicapped parking and I'm wondering if I could address a question to Officer in Charge Captain Zotollo?

Council President Accomando addresses Captain Zotollo - You want to answer it?

Councilman Cimiluca asks Captain Zotollo to come to the podium so he can answer his question.

Councilman Cimiluca – Captain on the resolution table is a permission for a handicap spot on a certain street. Now that street is a small street it doesn't have a lot of parking on it it's a very narrow street. Now is there a consideration taken in when you are going through the application as to whether that person has a driveway or not because I don't know if the person has a driveway I'm not sure of the reason that in an area that might not have a lot of parking that we are just designated we're taking away parking for the public and just giving it to that person and I know from other areas in Town where I see the person having a handicap space in front of their house and no one has ever parked there because they're parked in the driveway. I'm just wondering is that one of the considerations I know that you have criteria.

Captain Zotollo – It is one of the considerations what we like to do is have our Traffic Unit go and respond to each location when we have an application like that to see the type of roadway, the type of parking situation. There have been some that we've denied for certain reasons with parking or traffic flow or something that might be a hardship for

others. So I'm not sure of the specific one you're speaking of but we do most of the time do the research and get our Traffic Unit to go out there. Two of our officers are in the Traffic Unit go out there and assess and review that application to make sure it's not creating a hardship for others then that gets funneled to me and recommended one way or the other.

Councilman Cimiluca – I just didn't know the criteria so that's great to hear.

Mayor White – Through the Chair. Councilman Cimiluca I think on that one because I questioned the same thing because I think they only have one car but the driveway is very narrow and what they're saying is they can't maneuver the wheelchair because of I guess the size they don't have enough room on either side that's the way I understand it.

Councilman Cimiluca – Thank you Captain. With the proposed sale or the redevelopment of the rehabilitation is it redevelopment Mr. Schettino?

Mr. Schettino – It's a rehabilitation but it is referred to as a redevelopment plan but it's a rehabilitation.

Councilman Cimiluca – So some people are asking what do you do with the monuments my understanding is that the police monument is going to be relocated in front of the Police Department and the World War II monument is going to be relocated to the VFW and I think those are great places to have it. I believe the Police Department wants it there and I believe the VFW wants that memorial there so that solves some of the questions that we had. What do we do with these monuments if we don't own that property it would be honestly in my opinion silly to have them here, not many people would see them. Getting back to the rats somebody had said at the meeting about flushing the sewers and I did a little research on that and they do not recommend flushing the sewers because all it does is move the rats from one place to another. It just displaces them to areas that they weren't before so if they're concentrated in one area now you're flooding them and pushing them out to two or three separate areas so that's not a good idea. I think one of the things that came out at the last meeting was the idea of kind of neutering or Mayor did you ever talk to that person?

Mayor White – I think Jimmy Homsi he spoke to them because that was in Tenafly right.

Mr. Homsi – Yeah they were contracted in Tenafly while I was there. I didn't have much dealings or interactions because it was primarily held by a Councilwoman and committee but we could reach out to her. The Mayor and I spoke earlier and he wanted to reach out and get more information.

Councilman Cimiluca – For those of you who weren't here or didn't watch it there is some plan that she had mentioned that worked well in I think it was Tenafly in which they don't

kill the rats but what they do is kind of neuter them it's like a chemical castration type of thing where they eat the food or they eat the bait and they can't reproduce which obviously that's a problem. With rats I know that somebody had said that one rat can become ten thousand rats in a matter of months. I think you have to you can't discount the fact that not every rat that's born survives I mean they eat their own other animals eat them birds feast on them and just some of them just die so I think that might have been an overreaction that we were going to have tens of thousands of rats one rat is going to generate this thing. Now they do generate but not everyone survives so we've got to do our job to keep it under control and on my own I contacted officials and people in some high positions in four towns around us and it seems like this I forget what point number you got up to 10 or 11 we're doing a heck of a lot more than most of the towns that have had these rat issues. Almost everyone said well we tell people to keep their property clean and that's pretty much the extent of it. We do have a comprehensive plan of action on this in opposition to what some people may think but we are on it and we are trying to take care of the problem. It is a problem and hopefully we will with all of these different ideas that have come up and certainly if somebody else has an idea people come to the Council and have ideas. We're certainly not going to not accept them or not listen to them just because of who the person is we're all in this together so if there is a problem we need to fix it together. Thank you very much.

Council President Accomando – Unfortunately, I did miss the car show and I was part of the whole process I think since last year but I just needed to get away so I went away last weekend missed the car show but I did hear it was a great success they do a wonderful job every year no matter where they do it. I do want to thank the people for coming out and attending that rodent meeting, especially Mr. Asciutto. I want to thank him for bringing it to our attention because if you follow everything that goes on social media we'd have three, four, five meetings a day regarding stuff that goes on in Town that doesn't actually happen in Town because people just sometimes make stuff up on social media but if it wasn't fo him bringing it to our attention we wouldn't know what to do and giving us ideas of what he was doing for the past month or so. Baiting them, trapping them and then advising us maybe having a meeting and I think that was a good thing because we didn't know what to do I'm not an exterminator. I get mice in my house every year because the lady next door to me feeds the wildlife french fries, bread, bird seed. I don't want to be that guy and say hey listen stop feeding because that's probably all she has so I don't want to be that guy to say hey stop feeding wildlife. I'll trap a few mice get rid of them it's not a problem. The solutions that we got out of that meeting I thought were pretty good were definitely something we couldn't have thought of. Mr. Rodriguez's comment I do agree with him for a map of infestation to figure out where they're going how long they've been there when they get removed from the area and I do like that idea I think it's a great idea I think it's something we should probably implement with the County. As far as the DPW going to County Park listen I've worked with our DPW they have a workload that they can barely finish amongst themselves. They're all hardworking guys you can't just have someone go into a County Park and do work maybe if we could have like a shared service something like that maybe but like I said our guys have a workload as it is I don't think they can handle going to the park once twice a week once a month so that's something we just have to get on the County more to put the fire to their feet to do more for the residents not only of the County but like I said that's Saddle Brook Park you don't ever call it County Park you call it Saddle Brook Park so I think it's definitely something we should address and make sure that it gets taken care of in the near future. We had a September 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremony it was very well attended it was nice it was unfortunately it was the rat meeting was more attended to then the September 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony and I thought that was honestly I thought it was sickening because it's just and not that the rat problem is not an issue it is an issue but I don't know I think that Never Forget is slowly diminishing for a lot of people and I don't think we should ever forget that day. Trunk or Treat is October 26<sup>th</sup> if you want to volunteer I think if you go on the Township website you can volunteer every year that just gets better and better. It's great for the kids in Town to meet other kids for parents to meet other parents it's a good get together event. The Mayor brought up the Youth Academy for the Police Department I would like to ask Chief Mielnicki you guys ever think about doing a youth Academy for the Fire Department to try and get kids interested because you are a volunteer to get kids interested in the near future?

Chief Mielnicki – We have spoken about it.

Council President Accomando – You have okay I would love to see that come to fruition.

Chief Mielnicki – It is something that we had talked about doing during Fire Prevention Week since we are volunteers we won't be able to do it during the day like the Police Department can do but we have talked about doing something maybe over the weekend or in the evening.

Council President Accomando – Okay I think that's it and again congratulations Chief. Let's take a two minute break for the Chief's retirement goodbye.

The Council breaks for a few minutes.

Council President Accomando calls the meeting back to order.

Mr. Lo Dico calls the roll.

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

## ORDINANCES

## 1. ORDINANCE # 1756-24 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 106, HANDICAPPED PARKING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK TO PROVIDE FOR A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 24 BELLA VISTA AVENUE

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: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

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

#### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 106, HANDICAPPED PARKING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK TO PROVIDE FOR A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 24 BELLA VISTA AVENUE

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

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes Councilman Gierek - yes Councilwoman Sanchez – absent 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 (after all persons have had an opportunity to be heard) states motion is in order that the hearing on this ordinance be closed.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes Councilman Gierek - yes Councilwoman Sanchez – absent 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# 924-143

#### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 106, HANDICAPPED PARKING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK TO PROVIDE FOR A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 24 BELLA VISTA AVENUE

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 Mazzer Se

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

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

## 2. ORDINANCE # 1757-24 – FIRST READING

Council President: The next order of business is the introduction of

# AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 (TAX MAPS)

be passed and adopted on first reading.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

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

Clerk: Then reads the resolution as follows:

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL THAT:

### CR# 924-144

# AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 (TAX MAPS)

heretofore passed on first reading, be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the October 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill 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: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

## 3. ORDINANCE # 1758-24 – FIRST READING

Council President: The next order of business is the introduction of

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES AND A NEW FIRE ENGINE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,545,300 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, 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.

be passed and adopted on first reading.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

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

Clerk: Then reads the resolution as follows:

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL THAT:

## CR# 924-145

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES AND A NEW FIRE ENGINE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2.545.300 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, 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.

heretofore passed on first reading, be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the October 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill 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 Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

## 4. ORDINANCE # 1759-24 – FIRST READING

Council President: The next order of business is the introduction of

#### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 100 ENTITLED "GARBAGE COLLECTION" OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

be passed and adopted on first reading.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

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

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

Clerk: Then reads the resolution as follows:

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL THAT:

## CR# 924-146

#### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 100 ENTITLED "GARBAGE COLLECTION" OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

heretofore passed on first reading, be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the October 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill 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: Councilman Gierek

#### Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Councilman Cimiluca – Through the Chair I just had a comment. We understand that one of the main things that this Town is trying to do along with our surrounding towns is to try and stop it's a property maintenance issue to try and stop garbage from being out there in bags which can be eaten through. This ordinance would require all trash to be placed in containers and have a cover. Now we know that for some people this is going to be a great thing and they're going to commend us but there's going to be a number of other people that say why do I have to now after living here for forty years have to now buy a garbage pail and or buy a cover so everything we do we're not going to make everybody completely happy but this is my understanding from the experts is that this is one of the simplest ways to stop the proliferation of the vermin problem so I vote yes.

Roll Call:

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

The Township Clerk reads the following:

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. Motion: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

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

## \* MINUTES

- 1. July 18, 2024 Public Meeting
- 2. August 1, 2024 Special Public Meeting

### THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

3. August 15, 2024 Public Meeting

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

## **\* RESOLUTIONS**

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOUTH BERGEN MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

#### CR# 924-147

WHEREAS, Saddle Brook is a member of the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, said renewed membership terminates as of December 31, 2024 unless earlier renewed by agreement between the Municipality and the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality desires to renew said membership;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

- 1. Saddle Brook agrees to renew its membership in the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and to be subject to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, coverages, and operating procedures thereof as presently existing or as modified from time to time by lawful act of the Fund.
- 2. The Mayor and Clerk shall be and hereby are authorized to execute the agreement to renew membership annexed hereto and made a part hereof and to deliver same to the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund evidencing the Municipality's intention to renew its membership.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

I hereby certify this to be a true resolution adopted by the Township Council at it's Public meeting held on September 19, 2024.

Peter Lo Dico RMC CMC Township Clerk

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

#### CR# 924-148

**WHEREAS,** The Township Clerk advertised for the receipt of sealed bids for surplus vehicles, and,

**WHEREAS**, bids were received and opened on August 22, 2024 at 10 AM at the Municipal Building, and,

WHEREAS, the opened bids were as follows:

1994 International Sewer Jet Truck		VIN #1HTSCACR9RH599949
Jersey One Auto Sales	\$851.00	
Liberty Motors	\$939.99	
LAWRENCE DI BELLO	\$3,100.00	
2014 FORD F 550 UTILITY TRUCK		VIN # 1FDUF5HT3EEA26576

Jersey One Auto Sales	\$1,751.00
LIBERTY MOTORS	\$6,789.99

#### **BOLD INDICATES HIGH BIDDER**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the bids for the various vehicles are awarded as follows:

#### LAWRENCE DI BELLO

1994 INTERNATIONAL SEWER TRUCK VIN# 1HTSCACR9RH599949 \$3,100.00

LIBERTY MOTORS, 1705 KENNEDY BLVD., JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305

2014 FORD F 550 UTILITY TRUCK VIN # 1FDUF5HT3EEA26576 \$6,789.99

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to return the 10% bid deposit to the unsuccessful bidders.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

CR# 924-149

**WHEREAS**, a property located in the Township of Saddle Brook, known as 140 Graham Terrace, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1509, Lot 1 is assessed to Angel Antonio Rosado; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2021, Mr. Rosado was declared 100% tax exempt by the Department of Veterans Affairs effective September 16, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Rosado purchased 140 Graham Terrace, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, Block 1509, Lot 1 on June 10, 2024, and

**THEREFORE,** 140 Graham Terrace, Saddle Brook, New Jersey will be tax exempt as of June 10, 2024; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes effective June 10, 2024 and issue a refund in the amount of \$2,209.00 for third quarter of 2024 to Bridgeview Abstract, Inc. The mailing address is 1 Bridge Plaza North, Suite 730, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. The refund check is to be given to the Tax Collector for mailing. This property is 100% tax exempt for 2024.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

#### **TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK**

#### **COUNTY OF BERGEN**

#### CR# 924-150

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of the municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget and,

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for an equal amount,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RE	ESOLVED that the
Mayor and Council hereby requests the	e Director
of the Division of Local Government S	ervices to
approve the insertion of an item in the	budget
of the fiscal year 2024 in the sum of .	-
\$43,000	
which item is now available as a reven	ue from
a Fire Grant pursuant to the provisions	of
statute, and	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED	that a like sum of
\$43,000	
be and the same is hereby made under t	the caption
of Fire Grant-Other Expenses	
Motion: Councilman Gierek	Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, N.J.

#### EMERGENCY RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48 (Within 3% limitation)

#### CR# 924-151

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to Sewer – Other Expenses and no adequate provision was made in the 2024 Current Budget for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$276,000 and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2023 is \$737,678 and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48;

- 1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for sewer Other Expenses in the amount of \$276,000.
- 2. That said emergency will be funded by a Bond Ordinance to be adopted prior to December 31, 2024.
- 3. That an Emergency Note not in excess of the above amount be authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-51.
- 4. That such note be executed by the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer and the seal affixed thereto and attested to by the Township Clerk. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell said notes and any renewals thereof from time to time.
- 5. That such note may be renewed from time to time, and such note and any renewals shall be payable on or before December 31, 2024.
- 6. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services

I, Peter Lo Dico, Township Clerk of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Body at a meeting of said Governing Body held on September 19, 2024, and said resolution was adopted by not less than a two-thirds vote of the members of the Governing Body.

Peter Lo Dico, Township Clerk

Witness my hand and seal on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55

#### CR# 924-152

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been adopted creating a special emergency appropriation of \$135,000 for a Preparation of Tax Maps/GIS and no adequate provision was made in the 2024 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 provides for the creation of a special emergency appropriation for the purpose above mentioned, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of Emergency Appropriations created including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is......\$411,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 and 40A:4-55:

 A special emergency appropriation be and the same is hereby made for Preparation of Tax Maps/GIS.....\$135,000

- 2. Total amount per ordinance is for \$135,000 and the Mayor and Council hereby requests that an exclusion from the "Cap" be granted by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with P.L. 1981 Chapter 56 in the amount of 27,000 per year in the budgets of the next five succeeding years commencing with the budgets of 2025 in accordance with 40A:4-55 (C).
- 3. That a special emergency note or notes be authorized not in excess of \$135,000, the amount appropriated by ordinance as stated above.

- 4. Such notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Ordinance and this resolution and shall be negotiable notes payable to bearer, or registered notes, and shall bear interest at a rate per annum within the limitations prescribed by law, and such interest shall be payable at the maturity of such notes. The notes shall be dated on or about the date of their issuance and may be renewed from time to time, but at least 1/5 of the total amount of notes hereby authorized, and the renewals thereof, shall mature and be paid in each year, so that all notes and renewals shall have matured and have been paid not later than the last day of the fifth year following the date of this resolution. The issuing officers are authorized to provide that the notes may be redeemable at the option of the Township.
- 5. The Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to execute said notes, and the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the seal of the Township to such notes and to attest such seal and said notes, and said officers are hereby authorized to issue said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law and to recite therein that all requirements and conditions of law have been complied with in the issuance of said notes, and that said notes are within every debt and other limit prescribed by the Constitution or statutes of New Jersey.
- 6. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell said notes and any renewals thereof from time to time, at public or private sale, at not less than par and accrued interest and to determine within the limitations prescribed by this resolution, the date, principal amount, maturity date, and denomination of said notes, and the rate of interest said notes shall bear and to deliver such notes upon receiving the purchase price to be paid therefor.
- 7. The Township Council hereby covenants on behalf of the Township, to the extent permitted by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Jersey, to do and perform all acts and things permitted by law and necessary to assure that interest paid on bonds, notes or other obligations of the Township (including the Special Emergency Notes) be and remain excluded from gross income of the owners thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code").
- 8. The Township Council hereby designates the Special Emergency Notes as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. It is hereby determined and stated that the Special Emergency Notes (1) are not "private activity bonds" as defined in the Code and (2) the Township and its subordinate entities, if any, do not reasonably anticipate issuing in excess of \$10 million of new money tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds) during the calendar year 2022. The Township will, to the best of its ability, attempt to comply with respect to the limitations on issuance of tax-exempt obligations pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code; however, the Township does not covenant to do so, and expressly states that a covenant is not made hereby.
- 9. That two certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

10. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and the contract to perform the Revaluation is hereby awarded

I, Peter Lo Dico, Clerk of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Body at a meeting of said Governing Body held on September 19, 2024, and said resolution was adopted by not less than a two-thirds vote of the members of the Governing Body.

Peter Lo Dico, Township Clerk

Witness my hand and seal of the Township of Saddle Brook this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF LODI PURSUANT TO NJSA 40:A:65-1

CR# 924-153

**WHEREAS,** CR #824-135 was adopted on August 15, 2024 for a shared services agreement with the Borough of Lodi for DPW services, and

WHEREAS, the agreement was modified by the Borough of Lodi, and

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A5-1 et seq the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act authorizes contracts among municipalities for the sharing of services within their respective jurisdictions, and

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of the Township of Saddle Brook and the Borough of Lodi deem it in their best interests to enter into a shared services agreement for the shared use of various Department of Public Works equipment and services on an asneeded basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Saddle Brook has adopted CR# 824-135 authorizing the entering into a Shared Service Agreement with the Borough of Lodi for the sharing of the use of various Department of Public Works equipment and services on an as needed basis which resolution is attached hereto;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40:55-1 et seq. that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Township Clerk to attest a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Lodi for the sharing of the use of various Department of Public Works equipment and Services on an as-needed basis in a form attached hereto.

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor shall be and is hereby authorized to execute the aforesaid agreement upon the terms and conditions stated herein and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CR# 824-135 is hereby rescinded upon adoption of this resolution

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

## TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

# CR # 924-154

**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 **\$5,589,737.68** 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 ARE THE BILLS PAID THROUGH OFF LINE CHECKS.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

## TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

# CR # 924-155

**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 **\$639,465.40** 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:

# TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

CR # 924-156

### A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR the

Animal Control Fees Trust Fund REQUIRED BY NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq

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

**WHEREAS,** NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq provides for receipt of funds 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 Animal Control Fees 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 Governing Body 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 Animal Control Fees Trust Fund NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq 2. The 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:

# TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

#### CR # 924-157

### A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR the

Affordable Housing Trust Fund (sometimes known as the Mount Laurel Trust) REQUIRED BY NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq

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

**WHEREAS,** NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq provides for receipt of funds 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 Affordable Housing 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 Governing Body 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 Affordable Housing Trust Fund NJSA40A: 12A-3 et seq

2. The 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 Roll Call: Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

#### CR# 924-158

**WHEREAS,** Malas Builders posted two bonds (\$407,734.29 and \$40,485.00) totaling \$448,219.29 for property located at 110 Market Street, Saddle Brook NJ, (Block 617, Lots 1-4 and 9) and

WHEREAS, the owner has requested a release of these bonds,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that it hereby approves the release of the cash bond posted by Malas Builders in the amount of \$45,303.81 upon the Township Engineer's letter of approval of such release.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

## \* CORRESPONDENCE

1. CAPTAIN ZOTOLLO, O.I.C. TO: PETER LO DICO RE: LIVERY APPLICATION – CLEAR IMAGE DATE: AUGUST 13, 2024

#### Saddle Brook Police Department



JOHN A. ZOTOLLO, JR. CAPTAIN 63 MARKET STREET SADDLE BROOK, NJ 07663 Zotollo@saddlebrookpd.com

To:Peter LoDico – Township ClerkFrom:Captain John A. Zotollo, Jr. - Officer in ChargeDate:August 13, 2024

Re: LIVERY APPLICATION

Clear Image Executive, Inc. Nelson Espinosa 403 President Street Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

In accordance with Township Ordinance, an investigation was conducted regarding the above business and individual who filed a Livery Application. The livery service will operate out of 403 President Street.

The investigation did not reveal anything that would disqualify the business or the individual. All required documents were provided and the company meets all insurance thresholds as required.

I therefore find no reason why this application should not be approved.

(-1)

CC: file

## \* APPLICATIONS

### LIVERY LICENSE

1. CLEAR IMAGE EXECUTIVE, INC. - 403 PRESIDENT STREET - NEW

## \* **REPORTS**

- 1. MUNICIPAL COURT MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 2. BERGEN COUNTY SANITARIAN MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 3. BERGEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 4. GRANT WRITER REPORT JULY 2024
- 5. HOTEL ROOM TAX MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 6. DPW MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 7. FIRE PREVENTION OFFICIAL MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 8. CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL'S MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 9. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 10. TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 11. WATER BILLING MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2024
- 12. CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL'S MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2024
- 13. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2024
- 14. BUDGET STATUS REPORT AUGUST 2024

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Lo Dico – Under new business Mr. Chairman we have a resolution for the approval of a cannabis license application for MOM New Jersey doing business as Megan's Organic Market.

#### TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION APPROVING ISSUANCE OF CANNABIS LICENSE TO MOM NEW JERSEY LLC d/b/a MEGAN'S ORGANIC MARKET

#### CR# 924-159

**WHEREAS**, on February 3, 2022, the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook adopted CR#222-24 approving MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market's application to permit the operation of a Class 5 retail cannabis dispensary at the premises located at 220 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 104, Lot 1 in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board of the Township of Saddle Brook previously granted preliminary and final site plan approval and conditional use approval for same;

**WHEREAS,** on or about October 19, 2023 MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market, received final agency approval from the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retail facility at the referenced premises; and

**WHEREAS** on or about December 28, 2023, MOM entered into a Letter of Intent with its affiliate, MOM USA LLC to lease the property for MOM's dispensary and, thereafter on June 14, 2024, MOM USA LLC purchased said property; and

**WHEREAS** under cover letter dated September 17, 2024, the attorneys representing MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market submitted its application in support of its request for local cannabis license approval together with all together with all supporting documents and application and registration fees to the Township, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council and Township Attorney have reviewed the Application for local cannabis license approval submitted by MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference and recommends the approval of same.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that the application for local cannabis license approval submitted by MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market for the operation of a Class 5 retail cannabis dispensary at premises located at 220 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 14, Lot 1 in the Township, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, be and is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township issue a license for the operation of a Class 5 retail cannabis dispensary to MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market in accord with this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Eric D. Reiser, Esq., the attorney representing MOM New Jersey LLC d/b/a Megan's Organic Market upon its passage.

Councilman Cimiluca - This is just an application to get the license this is not an approval of their license.

Mr. Schettino – No this is MOM's has completed the entire process and this is to actually issue the license. This is the last step for them and they're going to be then ready to operate.

Council President Accomando – Did they start the build out yet?

Mr. Schettino – I don't really know the building status I just know that again they fulfilled a very long and lengthy process and this is the final step for them. As to the status of the building I just got actually we asked for a status report from all the and we just got theirs today but I didn't get it in fact I probably was sent that email to everybody late today so that should actually tell us. They did get the approval from the Board I don't know if they.

Council President Accomando – I'd like to see one because are any of them ready yet.

Mr. Schettino – I don't know the status of the construction but it may be in the report that they sent today and they will be appearing at our next committee meeting which will be before the work session on October  $3^{rd}$ .

Councilman Cimiluca – I've got a question we've heard from people in the audience and we've discussed it about conditions that we put on someone's ability to operate within our Town in terms of security they have to have filtration system, hours of operations and things of that nature. I don't recall ever imposing any conditions or discussing any conditions.

Mr. Schettino – No those are all State requirements in fact the State would supersede on that and they are extremely rigid and strict so the municipalities that allow these cannabis businesses are very well protected in fact I don't think I'm saying anything that's inaccurate those facilities in terms of security are safer than banks. That's how they you know they're required at their own cost and expense to have the personnel everybody gets ID'd coming in they get ID'd going out it's a very strictly controlled business by the State of New Jersey and their regulations as I said are imposed by the State Legislature. The only thing that we are involved in is just processing through the application and the State actually even monitors whether they're in compliance. They won't be able to even open until their facility is fully compliant with all the issues that you just mentioned.

Councilman Cimiluca – But in terms of hours of operation doesn't the Town get a say in.

Mr. Schettino – The hours of operation is whatever your ordinance provides. So if your ordinance restricts businesses from whatever some towns allow 24 hours some towns do not allow 24 hours so whatever your ordinance requires they have to comply with.

Councilman Cimiluca – For cannabis only or for just general business.

Mr. Schettino – For every business. The Town doesn't have a right to treat them differently than other businesses because they're a legal business so whatever you require for any commercial business in your community they have to comply with. I don't know what that is off the top of my head but whatever your ordinance requires they have to comply with.

Council President Accomando – I just have one thing. What's going on now with the cannabis community is they're getting these licenses they're starting a business and they're selling. Can we as a Township refuse a business owner because we're vetting we vetted at least four companies that are here cannabis facilities we spoke to them individually out of I don't know forty or fifty people maybe to allow them to come to the Township of Saddle Brook. So now what gives them the right to sell their license to somebody else to just come here without being vetted?

Mr. Schettino – Well it would have to be transferred and I think it's going to be similar to a liquor license.

Council President Accomando – Can we refuse it as a Township.

Mr. Schettino – You just can't refuse for any reason you have to have a basis to refuse and again if they comply with the State requirements the municipality's got no basis to deny the transfer of the license or the sale.

Council President Accomando – Okay.

Mayor White – Regarding the times of operation and the days that they operate I know at the Planning Board that we did put conditions on that as part of giving them their site plan approval and I know MOM's came before us not too long ago and New Jersey Patient Care as well.

Councilman Gierek – I believe the stipulation with MOM's was they were going to be closed on Sunday.

Mayor White – Right.

Councilman Cimiluca – That's in a site plan approval?

Mayor White – Yes I just haven't seen it. Mr. Lo Dico what are the hours of operation we do have an ordinance.

Mr. Lo Dico – The only ordinance off the top of my head we did years ago was at the request of the service station owners and we restricted them that they had to close by 12 midnight. That was at their request and I'm not sure if we have anything else. We have you know other stores are open twenty four seven.

Mayor White – We have convenience stores that are open twenty four seven.

Mr. Lo Dico – I don't believe we have anything else restricting businesses.

Councilman Cimiluca – Mayor do you know if that site plan approval also included hours of operation?

Mayor White – I believe it did yeah we made it more restrictive.

Councilman Gierek – I believe it was in the area of a nine to nine timeframe I'm not positive so don't hold me to that.

Mayor White – I think you're right.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

Council President Accomando - Can I have a motion to open for agenda items only?

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

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

Sylvia Zottarelli of 236 Lanza Avenue comes forward. Since the ordinance is on the agenda I can speak about it. The trash removal one if we have plastic trash cans with lids is that exempt from this ordinance or included in the ordinance. Mayor White – That's what we want. Ms. Zottarelli – Plastic or metal?

Councilman Cimiluca – Either or.

Ms. Zottarelli – Okay thank you.

Councilman Cimiluca – It's funny because when I talked to the business administrator in Elmwood Park when they were revising this and that's one of the things they did also their's goes back and requires that it be in tin or aluminum cans. It was an old ordinance.

Jeanine Ferguson of 321 Eighth Street comes forward. I have a question about ordinance 1759-24. I've already bought my trash cans with lids so I'm not concerned about whether it passes or not but I wanted to know if the Council have considered buying trash cans in bulk to sell to the Town?

Mr. Homsi – I did receive a quote from a vendor that deals with municipalities and because they deal with towns that implement either recycling or a trash program those are usually with automated machines so they deal in this capacity. I asked them for a quote and they sent me a quote for about 850 cans 64 gallon plastic with wheels and the price difference was between that and just a similar size at Home Depot was about thirty dollars so

obviously thirty dollars is thirty dollars but there wasn't a significant price gap. I mentioned it to the Mayor and if that's something the Council wishes to look into we could discuss further but that's something financially that they would have to discuss if they want to implement such a program to assist the residents.

Mayor White – Through the Chair. Thirty dollars isn't too bad.

Councilman Cimiluca – Since everyone's got to get two or three.

Ms. Ferguson – I don't know if you went to the Home Depot in Clifton or in Hackensack but the one I purchased was over thirty.

Mr. Homsi – I'm sorry I'll rephrase it I'm saying the difference in price.

Ms. Ferguson – Okay so it was a thirty dollar difference okay because I spent fifty dollars on one can.

Mr. Homsi – Yeah and I looked again and this was the retail price at Home Depot for that one was eighty nine ninety dollars 64 gallon with attached lid wheeled and everything so the price difference was a little under thirty dollars the price difference at a bulk rate.

Ms. Ferguson – I think that would be worth investing in for an ordinance that may pass soon thank you.

Councilman Cimiluca – I think we should put this on the agenda as an item for discussion for our next work session. You got the quote for 850.

Mr. Homsi – Yeah I got 64 gallon can and 95 gallon can which is big. Councilman Cimiluca – Would they be able to give you a quote for like 500 I mean we don't want to get stuck with 300 cans.

Mr. Homsi – I picked that number just as a high number just to get an approximate rate we could revise it to however many cans we want and that also includes assembly and delivery.

Council President Accomando – Motion to close the meeting to the public on agenda items.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Council President Accomando – Anyone have any comments?

Councilman Cimiluca – One thing that was brought up at the last meeting somebody mentioned that it was kind of a sales pitch from the people that were here Excel Pest Control. They are our contracted pest control company so it's not that we brought them in to make money actually what he had one of the representatives said that the initial evaluation and inspection costs \$189 what he failed to mention is that if you were in another town or you just called out of the blue it would be \$289 so they are giving a \$100 discount to Saddle Brook residents and they will work Mayor is Excel working with our residents in terms of pricing for the pest control?

Mayor White – Yeah they are they're giving that discount I mentioned that was one of the items I mentioned.

Council President Accomando – Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Cimiluca

Roll Call:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, RMC, CMC Township Clerk Todd J. Accomando Council President

Approved: November 7, 2024