

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 2025
8:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Ora Kornbluth, and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Hernando Rivera, and Marc Pascual (arrived at 8:19 p.m.)

ABSENT: No one.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Borough Clerk Marie Quiñones-Wilson

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Notice is sent to the Record, Star Ledger, and Cablevision, placed on a Municipal Bulletin Board and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Almonte.

Mayor Amatorio welcomed all. He stated it's great to see a big turnout and thanked all for being present. The council will honor the excellence and well-deserved promotions of the police officers and DPW staff as well as recognize the Barrier Free essay contest winners.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Council President Kornbluth to add ORDINANCE 25-2649 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED "DEPARTMENTS" and ORDINANCE 25-2650 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 25-2642 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECTED TO UNIONIZED CONTRACTURAL UNITS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD", to Consent Agenda Resolution 25-198- To Approve the Purchase of Communications Equipment and Services for OEM – Motorola Solutions, Inc., Resolution 25-199/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2025 Road Improvement Program – Cifelli & Son General Construction Inc. and Resolution 25-200 To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2025 New Jersey Avenue Improvements – D&L Paving Contractors Inc. Seconded by Councilperson Rivera. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Council President Kornbluth to approve minutes of the May 20, 2025 Regular Public Meeting and the May 20, 2025 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Amatorio welcomed dignitaries, police officer retirees, and Chief Lucas for being present tonight.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Barrier Free Committee – Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

Dana Falcicchio stated the Barrier Free Committee launched an essay contest. They asked students to imagine themselves as inventors designing something new to help people with physical or

developmental disabilities overcome everyday challenges. Their task was to dream big, think creatively, and use their empathy to build a better, more inclusive world. Ms. Falcicchio stated each of the winners tackled real life barriers with heart and innovation, whether it was improving mobility, enhancing communication, supporting learning or increasing independence, they showed what's possible when they see the world through the eyes of others. Ms. Falcicchio stated tonight, they are not honoring just their writing, but their vision that reflects the kind of community they strive to be in Bergenfield, thoughtful, inclusive, and hopeful about the future. The three winners moved, inspired all, and reminded all that change begins with imagination. Ms. Falcicchio stated they are proud of them and can't wait to see what they build next. The three winners from Roy W. Brown Middle School are: first place – Sacchi Malhorta, second place – Venpa Ramesh, and third place – Fawase Haddabeh.

Mayor Amatorio congratulated the winners and their families. He thanked the Barrier Free Committee for their work in the community and their inclusivity. He presented and their certificates of appreciation into the record.

B. Police Department Awards Ceremony

Chief Rabboh thanked everyone for coming to show their support. He presented a life saving citation to Officer Vincent Pizzuto. Officer Pizzuto, on February 13, 2025, responded to a medical call for a non-breathing, unresponsive six-year old boy. He administered CPR and moments later the child began showing signs of life, saving the child's life.

Chief Rabboh presented Sergeant Cruz and Detective Enriquez an Excellent Police Duty citation. On October 10, 2024, telecommunicator Russo received a telephone call from Essex County prosecutor's office requesting assistance to look for a vehicle wanted in a homicide earlier in the day in Newark. Sergeant Cruz and Detective Enriquez located the vehicle and proceeded to conduct a felony stop in the BP gas station on New Bridge Road. They were able to remove the occupants and deter them without incident. They did an exceptional job in apprehending the suspects without incident.

Chief Rabboh presented Officer Masri, Officer Ariggo, and Officer Bruno with a unit citation for doing an exemplary job in assisting with removing the homicide suspects.

Telecommunicator Carmelina Russo was presented a unit citation for obtaining all necessary information and disseminating it to the officers working, leading to stopping the vehicle and apprehending the suspects. She was recognized for her teamwork and exceptional work performance for obtaining and providing all necessary information allowing all officers to safely apprehend the suspects.

Chief Rabboh stated all of the officers' hard work is recognized and appreciated.

Chief Rabboh recognized Borough Administrator Gallo, Mayor Amatorio, and the governing body for proceeding with the promotions. He recognized retired Chief Tom Lucas, retired Captain John Maggi, retired officer Edward Edone, retired officer Jimmy Aceto. He thanked all current colleagues for their support. He thanked Haledon and Passaic Police Officers for their support as well.

C. Police Department Promotions

1. **Promotion of Police Officer Chris Brugger to the Rank of Sergeant**

❖ Biography of Police Officer Chris Brugger was read by Chief Rabboh.

❖ **Resolution 25-174**/To Promote Chris Brugger to the Rank of Sergeant in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion made by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution 25-174 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Oath of Office Administered by Mayor Amatorio.

Sergeant Brugger thanked the Mayor and Council, Borough Administrator Gallo, Chief Rabbah, Captain Duran, all fellow officers for their support. He thanked his friends and family. Sergeant Brugger congratulated Eric and Daynel on their promotions and a special thank you to his wife for being there for him.

Chief Rabbah acknowledged retired Captain Mike Foyle from Dumont for his support.

2. Promotion of Sergeant Daynel Ozorio to the Rank of Lieutenant

- ❖ Biography of Sergeant Daynel Ozorio read by Chief Rabbah.
- ❖ **Resolution 25-175**/To Promote Sergeant Daynel Ozorio to the Rank of Lieutenant in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion made by Councilperson Almonte, second by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution 25-175 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Oath of Office Administered by Mayor Amatorio.

Lieutenant Ozorio thanked Chief Rabbah, Borough Administrator Gallo, the Mayor and Council for having confidence in him. He will honorably serve as Police Lieutenant. The residents of Bergenfield are good, honest, hard-working people. It is his pleasure to serve the people of Bergenfield and the men and women of the Bergenfield police department are excellent, bonafide officers. They work nonstop to fulfill the police department's mission every day. Lieutenant Ozorio stated he is grateful for the opportunity and will ensure the police officers will continue to protect and serve the public.

3. Promotion of Lieutenant Eric Ost to the Rank of Captain

- ❖ Biography of Lieutenant Eric Ost read by Chief Rabbah.
- ❖ **Resolution 25-176**/To Promote Lieutenant Eric Ost to the Rank of Captain in the Bergenfield Police Department.

Motion made by Councilperson Rivera, second by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution 25-176 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Oath of Office Administered by Mayor Amatorio.

Captain Ost thanked the Mayor and Council, Borough Administrator Gallo, Chief Rabboh, his fellow officers, his family, and Chief Lucas for hiring him. He congratulated Lieutenant Ozorio, and Sergeant Brugger and his fellow co-workers for their support. He thanked his family for believing in him, and Captain Maggi, whose been like a brother.

Chief Rabboh thanked the entire governing body and Borough Administrator Gallo for the continuous support of the Police Department. He thanked all the families and all the officers present for their support.

D. Department of Public Works Promotions

Resolution 25-177/To Promote Robert Giacomelli to the Rank of Superintendent in the Department of Public Works.

Motion made by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution 25-177 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Resolution 25-178/To Promote Ryan Brophy to the Rank of Supervisor in the Department of Public Works.

Motion made by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution 25-178 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Resolution 25-179/To Promote Nicholas Watkins to the Rank of Supervisor in the Department of Public Works.

Motion made by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution 25-179 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Council Comments

Councilperson Lodato stated tonight the governing body in its efforts continues to support Chief Rabboh and the members of the police department through the promotions. He wished everyone who was promoted the best of luck for many years of service and continued leadership in the police department and the Borough of Bergenfield. Councilperson Lodato thanked those individuals who

were cited for exceptional service for their dedication to serve the Bergenfield Police Department and the borough. He congratulated the DPW employees promoted and wished them best of luck.

Councilperson Deauna expressed his heartfelt congratulations to Sergeant Brugger, Lieutenant Ozorio, and Captain Ost. Their dedication is a manifestation of the service they provide to the town. He congratulated the DPW employees.

Councilperson Almonte congratulated all on their well-deserved promotions. He thanked them for their dedication in keeping the community safe. Their hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed. They are proud to have to them on the force. He congratulated the DPW employees on their promotions.

Council President Kornbluth congratulated Sergeant Brugger, Lieutenant Ozorio, and Captain Ost and thanked them for their dedication to police department, the borough, and the citizens. She thanked all their brothers in the back of the courtroom who show up every day to do whatever they can to protect the residents. Council President Kornbluth thanked the awardees for their life saving efforts. She thanked Chief Rabboh and Captain Duran for leading the department. She congratulated and thanked the new Superintendent Giacomelli and Supervisors Brophy and Watkins for their service to the borough day and night. They make a difference in the quality of life in Bergenfield.

Councilperson Rivera thanked God for allowing every one to be here in peace. He is proud to see a lot of people present at the meeting tonight. There were some issues and battles over building a new borough hall in order for the community and staff to enjoy it today. The governing body has been providing the police department with the most up to date technology, new cars and guns, bullet proof vests, and whatever else is required for police officers for the safety of the town. Sergeant Brugger, Lieutenant Ozorio, and Captain Ost have accomplished and done so much for the community and that is why they have moved up to another level. He stated their families have played a large role for being in the position they are in now. He congratulated their families for providing their support, especially during difficult times. Councilperson Rivera stated the council had made a mistake in creating a Deputy Chief position in the past and that position is now suspended. He explained that is why there are now two Captains for the Police Department. He thanked the DPW employees for their commitment and stated that the residents love them for their hard work.

Councilperson Pascual congratulated Sergeant Brugger, Lieutenant Ozorio, and Captain Ost and will pray for them and the rest of the members of the police department. He stated what they do for the community is outstanding, that not everyone is fit for. The town is safe and he can sleep at night, knowing that someone is watching his back. The Mayor and Council are here to watch their back and are always available if they need something. He congratulated and thanked Superintendent Giacomelli, Supervisors Brophy and Watkins for all they do behind the scenes, especially at Family Fun Day. A big round of applause to the police department for keeping the residents safe on Family Fun Day. The security from the police department and a clean, safe environment provided by the DPW is what keeps Bergenfield moving forward. They all deserve the promotions.

Mayor Amatorio congratulated Sergeant Brugger, Lieutenant Ozorio, and Captain Ost. Their achievement is not just a personal one, but also of their families and the entire police department. It's a renewed public trust and there's a responsibility to never forget the oath they took today to uphold the law, protect all the people equally, and serve the community with fairness and guidance. He thanked them and wished them a long and meaningful, safe career. Mayor Amatorio thanked the outstanding DPW superintendent and supervisors. They are a quiet force behind the cleanliness and the day-to-day operations of Bergenfield. All of the promotions reflect the dedication, reliability, and excellence. He thanked the families and to all who were honored tonight for their sacrifices. Mayor Amatorio congratulated the winners of the Barrier Free essay contest. They are the future of

Bergenfield. He thanked all the residents, police officers, and guests for being present tonight. He acknowledged the presence of former Chief Monaghan. He thanked the council members for supporting the promotions sooner than later.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera for a five-minute recess at 9:05 p.m. All present, voting in favor. None opposed. The meeting was resumed at 9:22 p.m.

Verbal Communications I

Mayor Amatorio opens the meeting and invites the public for comments on agenda items only and asks if anyone present wishes to be heard. Please be advised there will be a limit of five (5) minutes per speaker.

John Smith, resident, inquired who will enforce Ordinance 25-2648 regarding Chapter 161 Floodplain Management if there is a violation for non-compliance. According to the ordinance, the construction official is designated as the floodplain administrator. Mr. Smith stated if he wants to build an addition on his block, which is designated as a flood zone in the state, who would he have to get the permit from, the town or the state. He stated it is written that all permits need to be issued by the state. He inquired about the cost of the permits. Mr. Smith stated it is written that no area in the floodplain can be enlarged. He inquired if the zoning board has the authority to override it.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated anyone can enforce borough ordinances. He stated all the permits go through the borough. The borough reviews it and then hands it off to the professional. Mr. Gallo stated the cost needs to be figured out.

Borough Attorney Schettino stated if relief is needed for a flood area, it needs to go to the Department of Environmental Protection.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closes Verbal Communications I.

CORRESPONDENCE

a). Martinez/Bergenfield Dominoes Club

RE: Request to Reserve Hickory Field for 2025 BDC Dominoes in the Park Annual Event/June 29, 2025 – Rain Date: July 13, 2025/10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

b.) Ferrer/Resident

RE: Request to Reserve Memorial Park Pavilion/August 23, 2025/11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Almonte to accept Correspondence. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinance

The following ordinance published herewith was first read by title only on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 25-2648 - AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 161 – FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 161 – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Public Comments on Ordinance 25-2648.

No one came forward.

Motion made by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Rivera, to pass Ordinance 25-2648 on second and final reading and is hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Introduction of Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and the Council Chambers of the Bergenfield Borough Hall as the place for a hearing on said ordinances. Seconded by Councilperson Rivera.

Mayor Amatorio read the title of the Ordinances into the record:

ORDINANCE 25-2649 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “DEPARTMENTS”

ORDINANCE 25-2650 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 25-2642 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECTED TO UNIONIZED CONTRACTURAL UNITS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD”

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 25-180. All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **25-181**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **25-182**/To Approve Liquor License Renewals for 2025-2026 License Term
- c. **25-183**/To Renew Inactive Liquor License – K1BBQ LLC
- d. **25-184**/To Approve Tax Refund – 67 E. Englewood Avenue
- e. **25-185**/To Approve Tax Refund – Knickerbocker Country Club
- f. **25-186**/To Authorize Electronic Tax Sale

- g. **25-187**/To Authorize a \$25.00 Fee for Notice of Tax Sale
- h. **25-188**/To Approve Retirement – Edward Volmer
- i. **25-189**/To Approve Retirement – Harry Hillenius
- j. **25-190**/To Approve Retirement – Philip Neville
- k. **25-191**/To Approve BCCPS 2025 Electricity Generation Supply Service Bid
- l. **25-192**/To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property on GovDeals
- m. **25-193**/To Approve the Purchase of One (1) Alcotest 9510 Evidential Alcohol Measuring Device for the Police Department – Draeger, Inc.
- n. **25-194**/To Approve the Purchase of Linelazer V 5900 HP Striper for the Bergenfield Department of Public Works – Ninos Machinery Repair LLC
- o. **25-195**/To Approve Proposal/Master Subscription Agreement – GovPilot
- p. **25-196**/To Approve Proposal – Twin Boro Park Phase III Improvements Preliminary Assessment Report – T&M Associates
- q. **25-197**/To Authorize Bid – New Municipal Building Parking Lot
- r. **25-198**/To Approve the Purchase of Communications Equipment and Services for OEM – Motorola Solutions, Inc.
- s. **25-199**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2025 Road Improvement Program – Cifelli & Son General Construction Inc.
- t. **25-200**/To Award Bid and Approve Contract – 2025 New Jersey Avenue Improvements – D&L Paving Contractors Inc.

Motion By Council President Kornbluth to approve the Consent Resolution. Councilperson Rivera seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Resolutions

Resolution 25-201/To Hire Full-Time Violations Clerk – Ingriss Cordova

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Almonte, that Resolution #25-201 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Resolution 25-202/To Hire Part-Time Building Inspector – Todd Gelayder

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Almonte that Resolution #25-202 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Resolution 25-203/To Hire Zoning Official, Plumbing Sub-Code Official, and Building Sub-Code

Official – Mike Ravenda

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, seconded by Council President Kornbluth that Resolution #25-203 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>nay</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>nay</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Resolution 25-204/To Hire Interim Plumbing Inspector – Robert Orzechowski

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Council President Kornbluth that Resolution #25-204 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution in Support of Major Richard Star Act

Councilperson Pascual stated there is a resolution the Borough of Waldwick supported. The resolution will be beneficial for Bergenfield residents. It allows veteran health benefits be carried over to the spouse. If the council is in support of the resolution, it will on the agenda for the next meeting.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Kornbluth that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Lodato seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting to Verbal Communications II and invited the public to comment on any subject, limited to five minutes per speaker.

Ramon De LaRosa, President of Bergenfield Softball and Kickball League, stated he is here with some of the members to discuss some issues they have. They donated almost \$20,000 to the town last year for people in need of scholarships. He already spoke to AJ Stewart regarding the permit. The Hickory Avenue fields are not being maintained by DPW. The league spent almost five hours fixing the field today. He received a message from Mr. Brophy stating they had used too much quick dry. Mr. De LaRosa stated they have a Sunday League and they need to beg for a permit. He commented that they are all residents and should have first priority. The weeknight league plays Monday-Friday from April until the end of June. The fall league plays on Sundays from mid-July until October. He had submitted the paperwork for a permit to Ed Volmer in April, but has spoken to AJ Stewart about it.

Mr. Gallo stated the quick dry breaks the clay and doesn't allow the clay to run the water off. A lot of money is spent on the clay and wished they would have come sooner. The DPW should be maintaining the field. The permit process will be done electronically by next season. He assured Mr. De LaRosa that they will get a commitment to fixing and maintaining the field. They are trying to improve the quality of the field and improve the dirt by bringing in more clay as the fields are being used more and they need to provide a better service.

Reimy Valdez, resident, stated they are not just a regular softball league. They represent this town and do a lot of fundraisers. They were the first ones to collect over \$8,000 for a family in town whose house burned down. They raised money for groceries and bills for a 12-year-old child with cancer. They told DPW they are willing to work on the field if they are taught how to do it the right way. He knows DPW is busy, but they feel like they are being treated like out of towners. They are Bergenfield homeowners and business owners. Mr. Valdez stated Mr. Brophy had sent a bad text message to one the members today, which wasn't right and unprofessional.

Mr. Gallo stated this is the first he is hearing they are having a problem getting a permit and it's the first time he's hearing they are having problems with the fields not being maintained. They have his number and should have called him. All they need to do is call him and it will be taken care of. Mr. Gallo stated it will be addressed tomorrow.

Councilperson Rivera stated you can come to the governing body as well.

Anthony Roldan, resident, coach, part of the Haunted Coopers Pond volunteers on the recreation committee, stated he is disappointed in the lack of support from the DPW since last year. He stated he is in close communication with Ed Volmer. It's disrespectful when he worked all day to clean the field and then be told they can't play on the field in an unprofessional manner.

John Smith, resident, stated the Dominoes Club were trying to play softball in town and couldn't get the fields. Mr. Smith stated when John Scagliotti was the recreation director, every July and August, he held a meeting with every team. They gave their schedule along with the fields that were needed for the upcoming year so the permits were lined up for that team. There should be a schedule showing when the teams will be using the fields. Mr. Smith stated he took a class to learn how to maintain the Memorial Park PAL complex. Phil Neville and Ed Volmer were in the same class. He stated too much Speedy Dry is not good and raking the field is not good either. Mr. Smith stated they should learn how to maintain the fields. The priority should be for Bergenfield residents first to use the fields. Friday, July 11th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. is Awards Night at the VFW for police, fire, ambulance, teacher, boy scout, and troopers. He thanked the Mayor and Council for Memorial Day. The DPW did a great job at Memorial Field and Coopers Pond.

Mayor Amatorio stated the council is hiring a person to help Ed Volmer with things that need to be done. AJ Stewart is helping right now.

Mr. Gallo stated he had asked Ed Volmer to have those meeting and he responded that he did have meetings for baseball.

Council President Kornbluth stated there seems to be a coordination problem between the permits and DPW.

Andrew Valerio, resident, inquired if DPW will be at the field when it's raining. Mr. Valerio stated a decision needs to be made by 6:00 pm. He inquired if Vivyen field is an option to have as a backup. Mr. Valerio inquired if there is a timeline for when the drainage at Hickory Field will be corrected.

Mr. Gallo stated the weather should improve. Someone should be there in the afternoon to rake the field. He inquired by what time does a decision needs to be made to cancel the game if the field is

too wet. Ed Volmer will call in advance if the field is too wet. Mr. Gallo stated he doesn't know what the obligations for Vivyen Field are. He will speak with Ed Volmer about it. Mr. Gallo stated there is a certain amount of clay that needs to be pulled out. They put in piping underground by third base to help with flooding. Mr. Gallo explained they have been trying to get grants to improve the fields. One of the grant opportunities he is working on is to try and turf the infields. He apologized on behalf of the borough staff for what happened and for the frustration. He assured that things will be better. Mr. Gallo stated he would like to have a meeting to understand and discuss the issues.

Euris Rivera, resident, stated there are over 100 players for softball and kickball. It's not just the players there, but their families attend also. They have built a community with stands always being full. He stated whenever they pursue a field, they are told that AA sports get priority. AA Sports is a not-for-profit organization that charges people who play softball. They pay for the permits and then hold their games here. He explained, in previous years, they had to wait until Thursday to find out if the field was free for them to play because of the AA Sports teams. The Rough Riders, Vinnie's team, is another team that plays against other towns. Vinnie and Ed Volmer have been doing the organizing. Mr. Rivera stated they are raising the fees for the permits this year that will hurt the Sunday League since they have to pay to get insurance.

Councilperson Rivera stated it can't happen anymore.

Assistant to the Borough Administrator AJ Stewart stated the fees were increased from \$225 to \$400.

Mayor Amatorio stated the council is considering hiring a park ranger to implement the schedule and support local teams.

Councilperson Rivera stated they have invested millions of dollars to fix the fields in Bergenfield. The residents and children of Bergenfield come first. A full-time recreation director is needed to create a better community.

Council President Kornbluth stated she would like to be present at the meeting.

Councilperson Almonte stated there should be one fee paid.

Mr. Gallo stated he doesn't want to make a decision now. He stated part of it could be that the Sunday League falls under recreation. He can't fix the issue if he doesn't know about it. Vivyen Field is not made for softball, it's a 60/90 field. The primary focus for the field is soccer. It can be an alternative, but soccer has priority.

Councilperson Pascual stated the coordination needs to be straightened out. Residents of Bergenfield should be priority. He stated there should be a certification course how to maintain the fields.

Mayor Amatorio stated it's the DPW's responsibility to maintain the fields.

Luis Abelino, an ally coming to the council as a representative, captain, and manager of a Bergenfield team sponsored by QB's Bar and Grill, stated they are part of the AA League previously mentioned. It's a North Jersey league with 47 teams. They represent Bergenfield. Mr. Abelino inquired if, with his permit, is maintenance of the field included. It's a traveling team and most of the games are at home. He stated their games are Sunday mornings and looks the same way as it was on Friday. There is all of Saturday to fix the field. He had sent a text message back in May regarding second base.

Mr. Gallo stated he wasn't aware of the problems and is going to work on a plan to get the fields up-to-date. The fields will be lined and set up. There are a lot of men's programs as well as multiple

baseball programs, and multiple youth programs. Mr. Gallo stated they are looking into the leak in the sprinkler.

Onassis Abreu, resident, stated the sprinkler was broken and it was never fixed. There's only one sprinkler working and everything else is hose.

Benjamin Weiner, resident, stated there's game changer with all the schedules. DPW should have game changer and look at the schedule to see who's playing, even for the little kids for Little League.

Mayor Amatorio stated they are thankful for all that is done for the community. If they had known about the issues earlier, they would have addressed it.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closed Verbal Communications II.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **25-205**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege/Contract Negotiations
 - 1. Tortora, Miller, Rispoli v. Borough of Bergenfield
 - 2. Massey v. Borough of Bergenfield
 - 3. Hunter v. Borough of Bergenfield

- B. Personnel
 - 1. Administration Personnel Matters

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Executive Chambers to adjourn this public meeting.

On a motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Pascual, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 10:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Lodato, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk