

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2026
7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Domingo Almonte (*arrived at 7:35 p.m.*), and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Ora Kornbluth, Hernando Rivera, and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: All members present.

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 was published in the Record Newspaper, placed on a Municipal Bulletin Board, posted on the Borough website, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. In case of an emergency, exits are in the back and to your right. Please turn off all cell phones."

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 26-091/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege
 - 1. Police Department Personnel Matters
 - 2. New Municipal Borough Hall

- B. Personnel
 - 1. Department of Public Works Personnel Matters
 - 2. Building Department Personnel Matters

On a motion by Councilwoman Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 7:34 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, and all present voting in favor, the meeting returned to open session at 8:03 p.m. R.C. All present.

The Salute to the Flag was led by Council President Almonte.

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Council President Almonte to add Resolution #26-103 to Approve Termination of Contract – Borough Hall Parking Lot Improvements – Chiachi1 Builders. Councilwoman Kornbluth seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Rivera to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Regular Public Meeting, the February 17, 2026 Closed Session Minutes (not to be released), and the March 5, 2026 Work Session Meeting. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting and invited the public for comments on agenda items only, limited to five minutes per speaker.

John Smith, resident, inquired with regards to resolution #26-098, whether the purchase is going to be funded with Capital Budget funds or an awarded grant. Mr. Smith stated that a few years ago, people came forward to complain because there is no shade in this park. Mr. Smith stated that the trees were cut down by residents building homes in the areas, and commented that whoever cut down the trees should be responsible for this. He further commented that residents of New Milford use the park, and inquired if the Borough received any funding from New Milford. He questioned who monitors that the kids using the parks are from Bergenfield.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that as far as where the money is coming from, the money is a split between Grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 and Capital Budget funds in the amount of \$50,000. In the resolution, C is for Capital and G is for Grant funds. The total cost for the purchase of the shade is \$100,000.

Councilperson Kornbluth asked if this is for the shade for the park, and stated that parks funded by green acres have to be shared with all residents.

Councilperson Rivera confirmed that the park is Green Acres funded.

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

PRESENTATIONS

No presentations.

CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Moroses/Friends of the Bergenfield Library

RE: Request for Town-Wide
Garage Sale in 2026/September
26th – 27th, 2026/9:00 a.m. to
5:00 p.m.

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

ORDINANCES

A. Introduction of Ordinance

Motion by Councilperson Pascual that the following ordinance be introduced and passed on first reading and setting Tuesday, April 7, 2026 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 ordinance. Seconded by Councilperson Rivera.

Mayor Amatorio read the title of the ordinance(s) into the record:

ORDINANCE 26-2663 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 236 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED "PUBLIC RECORDS, ACCESS TO"

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Council President Almonte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 26-092. 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) **26-093/**To Approve Bill List
- b) **26-094/**To Amend Temporary Budget
- c) **26-095/**To Approve Veteran's Tax Exemption – 65 New Jersey Avenue
- d) **26-096/**To Approve Veteran's Tax Exemption – 85 Haven Avenue
- e) **26-097/**To Approve Purchase – Communications Equipment and Services - Motorola Solutions, Inc.
- f) **26-098/**To Approve Purchase and Installation of a Superior Shade at Wayne Golon Park – MRC Inc.
- g) **26-099/**To Approve Purchase and Installation of One (1) Football Scoreboard and One (1) Baseball Scoreboard for Twin Boro Field – KGC Enterprises, Inc., t/a KC Sign and Awnings
- h) **26-100/**To Approve Proposal – Contract Amendment for Borough Hall Bus Stop and Parking Lot Improvements
- i) **26-101/**To Authorize Bid – 2026 Road Improvement Program

Motion by Councilperson Pascual to approve the Consent Resolution. Councilperson Kornbluth seconded the motion.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Council President Almonte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

B. Resolutions

26-102/To Authorize Bid – Porter Avenue Improvements

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #26-102 be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Council President Almonte:	recuse	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

26-103/To Approve Termination of Contract – Borough Hall Parking Lot Improvements – Chiachi 1 Builders

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #26-103 be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Council President Almonte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Recommendation and Appointment

Mayor Amatorio recommends and nominates Brenda Virtusio to the Rent Leveling Board as an Alternate Member for a one-year unexpired term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that the nomination be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Deauna:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	aye
Council President Almonte:	aye	Councilperson Pascual:	aye

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Almonte that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Lodato seconded the motion. All 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.

Yehuda Borg, resident, thanked the governing body for approving Resolution #26-098 for the purchase of the sunshade for the playground.

Jacqueline Romney, resident, stated that she is following up on an email sent yesterday to the Mayor and Council regarding the Complete Streets Policy. Ms. Romney handed a copy to Councilperson Lodato, Councilperson Kornbluth, and Councilperson Rivera because they approved a resolution in 2013 supporting the same. The information highlights what the policy is. The resident urged the Mayor and Council to update the policy because it would be a great improvement for the life of residents.

Mayor Amatorio stated that they will look at the information that has been submitted and if it is benefit of the community, the same will be considered.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Council thanked the residents for coming tonight and wished everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk