

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
APRIL 7, 2026**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio and Council President Domingo Almonte (*arrived at 7:37 p.m.*), Council members Thomas A. Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Hernando Rivera and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: Councilwoman Ora Kornbluth

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

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 **26-104**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

A. Personnel

1. Police Department Personnel Matters

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #26-104 be approved. All present voting in favor, none opposed. The was adjourned to Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 7:35 pm.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Council President Almonte, and all present voting in favor, the meeting returned to open session at 8:12 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

AGENDA CHANGES

Motion by Council President Almonte to revise the title of Resolution #26-120 on the consent agenda, for the re-advertisement of IT Management and Consulting services. Under new business, Carlos Feliciano will be added to the Veteran's Advisory Committee. Also, Resolution #26-125 to approve a change order for PAL Field Rain Garden has been added to resolutions. Councilperson Pascual seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER

A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report

Borough Engineer Tino D'Amore of Remington & Vernick, stated that they met with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to review the proposed programs of the 2026 Road Improvement Program. He stated that Porter Avenue is NJDOT funded project and therefore, the plans require the State's review and approval. The plans are going to be submitted to NJDOT in about two weeks for final approval and authorization to bid.

Mayor Amatorio inquired the roads that will be done first, as he sees a lot of digging from PSE&G and Veolia around the borough.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Brook Street, Porter Avenue, North Queen, South Queen, Rivera Way, Harcourt, Wildrose, South Demarest will be done first.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the Borough is in communication and coordination with the service companies. The plan is that they will complete all their work before the roads are paved, as we have done for the past two years.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinance

Mayor Amatorio read into the record:

The following ordinance published herewith were first read by title on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

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

Public Comments on Ordinance 26-2663.

No Comments.

Motion by Councilperson Rivera, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, to pass Ordinance 26-2663 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>	Councilperson Kornbluth:	<i>absent</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Council President Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Introduction of Ordinances

Motion by Councilperson Lodato that the following ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and setting April 21, 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. Councilperson Deauna seconded the motion.

Mayor Amatorio read the titles of the Ordinances into the Record:

**ORDINANCE 26-2664 - AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECTED TO UNIONIZED CONTRACTUAL UNITS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD**

**ORDINANCE 26-2665 – BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,808,700 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**

**ORDINANCE 26-2666 – ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Committee Appointment**

Mayor Amatorio recommends and nominates Carlos Feliciano, DAV Commander, to the Veteran's Advisory Committee for an unexpired one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

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

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

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

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that progress has been made with all the different projects going on. The proposal for the work at Coopers Pond is on the agenda for approval, and we also have the rebid on IT services due to legal technicalities, and continue working on the punch list items for the new building, which will continue to unwind as the weather breaks.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT**

Councilperson Lodato

stated that the Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet the 13<sup>th</sup> next month, they have three applications to review. The Planning Board meeting in March was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>, but may also be cancelled as no applications have been submitted yet. The Fire Department is holding a beefsteak this Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and there are still tickets available if anyone is interested. The Bergenfield Public Library Board's next meeting is on April 9<sup>th</sup>, in person.

Councilperson Deauna

stated that last Tuesday I attended the Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee meeting, and learned that this month they have a party in Saint Anthony's Church as well as a trip out of town. They are very interested to know when the Borough's Volunteer dinner will be held in December.

Council President Almonte

stated that he attended the Stigma Free Committee meeting last week. We are celebrating Autism month in collaboration with the Bergenfield Library and the Barrier Free Committee. The activity will be held at the Bergenfield Library Sunday on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Councilperson Rivera

stated that he attended the different activities in town, including the Bergenfield Little League season opener, the Easter Egg Hunt at Coopers Pond, and the grand openings of Portland Nature Farmer's Market and The Running Latte Café. He thanked the DPW Superintendent for getting the DPW workers to help clean the street for the grand opening. He proposed some ideas of how the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's independence can be celebrated at Family Fun Day this year, being a unique opportunity for families to come together and celebrate the 250th year of the founding of the nation. Some ideas include: having a patriotic ceremony, opening the ceremony with patriotic music, the highlighting the local veterans and community leaders, historical displays highlighting American history, some cultural dances or reenactments, family activities, such as arts and crafts, patriotic face painting, and colonial educational trivia for children. There should be community recognition of local heroes to commemorate the occasion.

Councilperson Pascual

stated that the Veteran's Advisory Committee chose their Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade Celebration. We are in discussion to form a committee to award the most Patriotic resident in town. The Stigma Free Committee will be having an Autism Awareness meeting at the Library in collaboration with the Barrier Free Committee and the Bergenfield Public Library. Shade Tree Committee meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Amatorio

stated that he attended the Portland Nature Farmer's Market grand opening and the grand opening of the Running Latte coffee shop in front of Borough Hall, as well as, the opening of the Baseball Little League, and the Easter Egg Hunt activity at Coopers Pond. We had a great turn out of volunteers from the High School, which is great because the Borough is now working in collaboration with the High School to have volunteers at future events. Mayor further stated that the 5K run is all set to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The event will be bigger than last year due to the number of registrations.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a.) O'Malley/Council of Irish Associations of Greater Bergen County
- b.) Naylis/Board of Fire Officers
- c.) Shaw/Washington School Parents Association

**RE:** Thank you Message for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade from the Parade Committee

**RE:** Personnel Action Letter dated March 29, 2026

**RE:** Request to Reserve Hickory Field for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic/June 9, 2026/8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Rain Date June 10, 2026)

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Council President Almonte, and all members present voting in favor, to accept Correspondence. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barry Doll, resident, stated that Joann Thomas, President of the Bergenfield Museum has stepped down. Bestie Wright is the new president. He was looking through records at the Museum and wanted to share some information he found. In 1894, the first budget was \$450.00. Mr. Doll stated in 1902, the Council passed Ordinances #23 and #24, complaining about automobiles. In 1911, Mayor Stump had excused himself from the meeting, didn't resign, but never returned. At another time, Attorney Foster had researched Sunday laws, in which baseball could not be played on Sundays. He went on to state that in 1917, the Mayor and Council had approved a curfew for women under 18, during the time of World War I. In 1927, the first traffic light was in operation by Main Street and Washington Avenue. Mr. Doll stated it's nice to look at the past and see how the times have changed. He stated that in the budget notice, it shows an increase of over \$3 million. In the past, a summary was provided. He inquired how this increase will impact our taxes.

John Smith, resident, inquired with regards to Resolution #26-116, where will the work be for lawn care treatment services be done, and whether it is for lawn care or pesticides. He further stated that the committee came up with two names for the grand marshal, but he didn't agree with it.

Borough Administrator Gallo explained that the work will be done at the fields, including Memorial Park, PAL, and Hickory for pesticides.

#### OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

##### A. CONSENT AGENDA

**CONSENT RESOLUTION 26-105.** 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. **26-106**/To Approve Bill List
- b. **26-107**/To Celebrate Arbor Day – April 19, 2026
- c. **26-108**/To Approve Temporary Emergency Appropriation
- d. **26-109**/To Approve Temporary Capital Budget
- e. **26-110**/To Approve Tax Exemption Status – 15 North Street
- f. **26-111**/To Approve Agreement – Solid Waste Cooperative Marketing Program – Bergen County Utilities Authority “BCUA”
- g. **26-112**/To Authorize Participation – Natural Gas Bid – Bergen County Cooperative Pricing Systems “BCCPS”
- h. **26-113**/To Approve the Purchase of Point-Blank Vests for the Borough of Bergenfield Police Department – Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.
- i. **26-114**/To Approve the Purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS) for the Borough of Bergenfield Fire Department – GPG Enterprises

- j. **26-115**/To Approve Shared Services Agreement for the Disposal of Grass and Vegetative Waste - Borough of Dumont
- k. **26-116**/To Approve Contract for Lawn Care Treatment Services for the Department of Public Works – Outdoor Home Services Holdings, LLC
- ~~l. **26-117**/To Approve Proposal – Cooper’s Pond Park Pond Dredging – T&M Associates~~
- ~~m. **26-118**/To Authorize Rebid – Metzler’s Brook Stream Cleaning and Streambank Stabilization Project~~
- n. **26-119**/To Authorize Bid for the Sale of Borough Property - Block 67 Lot 3
- o. **26-120**/To Authorize Re-Advertisement for Proposals – IT Management and Consulting Services

Councilmembers requested that Resolutions #26-117 and #26-118 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, to approve the Consent Resolution #26-105, as amended.

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

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

Motion by Council President Almonte, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #26-117 be approved.

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

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

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, that Resolution #26-118 be approved.

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

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

**B. RESOLUTIONS**

**26-121**/To Introduce the Municipal Budget for Calendar Year 2026 and Advertise the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Lodato, that Resolution #26-121 be approved.

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

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

**26-122**/To Approve Sidebar Agreement – Bergenfield Employees’ Association

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #26-122 be approved.

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

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

**26-123/To Hire Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer – Steven Edelstein**

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, seconded by Council President Almonte, that Resolution #26-123 be approved.

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

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

**26-124/To Hire Part-Time Summer Laborers for Department of Public Works**

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, seconded by Council President Almonte, that Resolution #26-124 be approved.

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

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

**26-125/To Approve Change Order No. 1 & Final – PAL Field Rain Garden – T&M Associates**

Motion by Council President Almonte, seconded by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #26-125 be approved.

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

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor and Councilmembers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished all a good night.

Councilperson Deauna stated that great action was taken this evening with the approval of the dredging of Cooper's Pond and Metzler's Brook.

Councilperson Rivera expressed his sincere condolences to Ruth Davis' family. He expressed that celebrated several birthdays with Ruth, including her recent 107<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Councilperson Pascual also expressed his condolences to the Davis family for their loss. He reminded all the residents to register for the Mayor's Wellness Challenge.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Rivera and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Marie Quiñones-Wilson  
Borough Clerk