

Mayor Sheinfield Opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and giving the Open Public Meeting Statement. This is a Special Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 4th day of February, 2025. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News and The Bergen Record; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please silence all cell phones. Please wait to be recognized by the Mayor during the Public Hearing and the Public Comment part of the meeting. You will need to state your name and town of residence for the record.

Borough Clerk Kohan took roll call - Mayor Michael Sheinfield, Council President Osso, Councilmembers Colletti, Fox (absent- called in for the closed session), Mazza-Chiong, Ruocco, Trochimiuk (Borough Administrator Mike Ghassali, Borough Clerk Denise Kohan, Borough Attorney Mark Madaio)

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

[25058](#) To provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 –*PBA Local 207 Contract Negotiation, Police Personnel, Shared Services – Municipal Court*

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session not open to the public may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by and designated below:

- (1) Matters required by law to be confidential.
- (2) Matters where the release of information would impair the right to receive funds.
- (3) Matters involving individual privacy –
- (4) Matters relating to collective bargaining –
- (5) Matters relating to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property or the investment of public funds.
- (6) Matters relating to public safety and property –
- (7) Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and the attorney-client privilege – *PBA Local 207 Contract Negotiation, Police Personnel, Shared Service – Municipal Court*
- (8) Matters relating to the employment relationship –
- (9) Matters relating to the potential imposition of a penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Hillsdale assembled in public session this date that an Executive Session closed to the public be and the same is hereby authorized for discussion of matters relating to the specified items designated above. It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Borough Council that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

Motion Trochimiuk Second Osso

Ayes: Councilmember Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:

Motion to reconvene Ruocco Second Osso

Ayes: Councilmember Fox, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti

Nays: none

RECOGNITION/OATH OF OFFICE:

Hillsdale Hawks Pee Wees Football/Cheer Team 2024 Superbowl Champions

Councilman Colletti shared that the team had a fantastic year, with both the juniors and Peewees winning their respective Super Bowls. He emphasized the hard work and dedication of the coaches, volunteers, and parents who support the kids in this competitive yet fun sport.

He highlighted the dramatic final moments of the Peewee Super Bowl, where the team made an exciting, last-minute decision to go for a two-point conversion, securing the victory with a thrilling finish. It's a great moment for the kids, coaches, and community!

Coach Zach Rafel emphasized how the players' commitment and hours of practice led to the thrilling Super Bowl win. Coach Danielle McNair also shared gratitude for the team's effort, recognizing how their achievements went beyond just winning—they demonstrated the value of hard work and teamwork.

Craig Cardell, the president of the Hawks organization, also expressed appreciation for the support from the community and local services, like the DPW, which help make events like these possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Sheinfield called for a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes January 7, 2025

Motion Ruocco Second Osso

Ayes: Councilmembers Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti

Nays: None

Absent: Fox

Mayor Sheinfield called for a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes January 14, 2025

Motion Ruocco Second Mazza-Chiong

Ayes: Council President Osso, Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong

Nays: None

Absent: Fox

Mayor Sheinfield called for a motion to approve the Council Closed Meeting Minutes January 14, 2025

Motion Ruocco Second Trochimiuk

Ayes: Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso

Nays: None

Absent: Fox

INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Sheinfield opened the Initial Public Comment period. Seeing no wishing to speak on a topic that is on the agenda, he closed this portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL MONTHLY REPORTS:

[Borough Engineering Report – January 2025](#)

Colliers Engineering

Nick Chelius from Colliers Engineering gave his monthly report. He reported that we are still early in the year, but we are focused on a few key projects right now. We're in the final stages of preparing the 2025 Riverside Co-op proposal, which includes road paving, and we're also advancing the Memorial Field project, which we'll be presenting to the Council next week. We've submitted a revised concept plan and have scheduled a meeting with the residents on Thursday to discuss the next steps.

As for Centennial, the project was paused for winter due to weather constraints. As soon as conditions improve, they'll resume work, finishing the drainage system and then laying sod. We expect that once the sod is laid, it will take about four to six weeks for the field to be ready for use, potentially in late spring, around Memorial Day.

In terms of Memorial Field, I know there's been some concern, particularly around the choice between artificial and natural turf. We haven't had a full discussion yet, but I understand the importance of getting a clear, unbiased presentation on both the environmental and safety aspects of artificial turf. Next week, we'll have Carl, our expert from Colliers, who has handled many turf projects, available to speak on this.

Councilmember Ruocco said he has been consistently asking for a discussion on the safety & environmental risks of artificial turf, as well as a multi-year comparison of the installation and maintenance costs of artificial vs natural turf. The public in the November town hall session requested the same. Neither has been done. As we move forward, it's crucial that we address these questions and make sure we're comfortable with the safety, environmental impact, and the long-term costs of this project. The engineer responded that he understood the concerns about financing and want to ensure that the public's interests are properly represented. We'll also work on providing a comprehensive cost estimate that includes both construction and lifecycle costs for a clear financial comparison between artificial turf and natural grass.

Nick added that the scope of a lot of the questions are outside the engineering aspect but he will make sure Carl, who is Collier's turf expert, is prepared to address these concerns at the meeting, so we can move forward with confidence as he is the expert.

Mayor Sheinfield clarified that we're not making a decision on lights yet, and we don't fully understand what the dynamics of the proposal will be regarding whether lights will be included. He is not ruling them out, nor is he advocating for them, but until we see the final plan, it's premature to make any conclusions about the inclusion or exclusion of lights. Councilman Ruocco stated that he is simply reflecting the discussions and concerns expressed at the public portion of the Recreation Committee meeting.

Councilman Osso asked if the Engineer will provide a cost estimate for Memorial. Nick responded that they can absolutely provide an order-of-magnitude cost estimate for construction. We're using pricing from similar projects we've completed recently to assemble a range of costs for different components of the project, as well as the life-cycle cost estimate. The life-cycle cost is essential for a more comprehensive financial

analysis, and I understand the importance of comparing that with the costs of natural turf—especially considering the maintenance required for natural grass, which artificial turf doesn't need.

I will ensure the CFO gets those estimates soon so they can evaluate the financial side of the project, including principal and interest payments over the next 8 to 12 years. I've already shared a rough estimate with Mike, and we'll be able to fine-tune the numbers as needed.

Mayor Sheinfield adjusted the agenda to allow public comment at this time.

Rosa Manasian – Hillsdale

She briefly introduced herself and her family. She has three children, all of whom have disabilities. Michaela, my eldest daughter, has epilepsy. Hope, my younger daughter, has cerebral palsy and is legally blind. My middle child, Ellie, who isn't here today, has ADHD. It's a challenge, but we're just looking for some support, particularly in creating an inclusive space for families like mine.

She understands that the Borough is working on a project for a playground, and would love to see an accessible, all-inclusive playground be part of this project.

Michaela Manasian – Hillsdale

I have two younger sisters. One has ADHD, and the other, Hope, has multiple disabilities. I think the park should have a wheelchair-accessible swing, as well as a twin swing, so that both of my sisters can feel safe. There should also be a regular swing for others to enjoy.

In addition, I believe the playground should have a mirror on the ceiling or roof for sensory purposes. The walls should have contrasting colors to help with visibility. There should be a slide designed for wheelchair access and another that can fit two people. A longer, one-person slide would also be great. The playground should include a ramp for wheelchair access, and there should be footprints on the ground to help my sister Hope practice walking.

Lastly, the ground should be made of a rubbery material so that if children fall, they won't get hurt. I broke my arm once because the ground had wood chips, and I wouldn't want that to happen to anyone else.

I strongly believe that these changes will make the park safer and more accessible for everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President – Clemente Osso

The Rec Commission had a meeting yesterday where we discussed revisions to the Memorial Field concept plan. The updated concept will be presented to the Council on February 11th, 2025. Some of the main changes include additional parking spaces, adjustments to access, and a primary entrance/exit on Hillsdale Avenue. There is also a new sitting area, as well as a designated playground space, for which we hope to secure funding.

We also have a meeting scheduled for the surrounding residents on Thursday, February 6th, 2025, at 7 PM in the Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public, so even if you weren't formally invited, you're encouraged to attend. A letter was sent to residents within a 200-foot radius, covering 49 homes, although some nearby residents may not have received invitations.

In other news, the Spring brochure will be released on February 18th, featuring activities like cooking classes, STEM classes, and track and field. You can find more details on the Hillsdale Recreation website. Additionally, summer camp registration opens on March 11th and 12th, with 10 days of exclusive registration for Hillsdale residents before opening up to Rivervale. Last year, the camp filled up quickly, so it's important to register early.

Dan Conte is continuing to research available grants, including BCUA matching grants and Bergen County open space grants, which will help fund improvements at Beachwood Field and other designated playground areas, such as McSpirit Park near the library.

Lastly, next week's agenda will include the review of the police contract, and we'll have more updates on that at that time

Councilman – Robert Colletti Jr.

The Environmental Commission has currently two available seats, and we are in the process of interviewing candidates. Seven individuals expressed interest, three of whom were interviewed in January. Another three will be interviewed at the upcoming February meeting, and one candidate has withdrawn from the process. The goal of the Commission is to make its recommendation to the mayor by the end of February. One position will be for a permanent member, and the other for an alternate.

We're still awaiting approval for the Beachwood Nature Trail Grants (both the first and second grants). The BA is actively working to get updates and move those forward.

Moving on to the Pascack Valley Board of Education, their meeting was held on January 27th, with the next one scheduled for February 24th. The focus of the January meeting was the internship program, which has been running for 15 years. This program, led by Mr. Joseph Orlac, is offered to juniors and seniors and involves over 250 businesses. Students gain real-world experience, including writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing, and executing internships. The program offers diverse opportunities, ranging from veterinary care to trades, culinary arts, physical therapy, nursing, and marketing. It's a fantastic program that provides invaluable experience for the students, and I commend them for its continued success.

Next, we had a meeting with Chief Farrell and Deputy Chief Kelly from the Fire Department to discuss key concerns and areas of opportunity. One major issue is daytime coverage before 4 p.m. At the moment, we rely on Mutual Aid from neighboring towns. Chief Farrell has highlighted the need for at least two additional firemen during the day for adequate coverage. We discussed increasing the number of DPW workers who are also trained as firefighters. This dual-role approach has been tried in the past, but its success has been tied to the DPW Superintendent's priorities. Currently, we have an interim DPW Superintendent who supports this model, and we already have two DPW workers who are also firefighters. A recent new hire will bring this number up to three. The BA and the interim DPW Superintendent, Barry Peterson, are both on board with this approach and will work together to expand it further over time.

In terms of grants, the Fire Department identified the need for a more concentrated effort to apply for grants. It's something that could benefit from a third-party supplemental grant-writing service, and I plan to discuss this with the BA and CFO to determine if that's the right approach.

Finally, the Fire Department is exploring options for refurbishing their rescue truck to save the town money, rather than replacing it with a new one. They're also looking into a third-party maintenance contract for the new ladder truck that will be coming in at the end of 2025 or early 2026. The goal is to ensure professional

and effective preventative maintenance to keep everything running smoothly. Once they present their analysis, we'll bring it to the Council for consideration.

Councilwoman – Melissa Mazza-Chiong

Last month, Hillsdale and Rivervale held a joint Emergency Medical Shared Services meeting. This meeting served as an introduction to the Rivervale team and included discussions on the process and the new model that Hillsdale has developed, which has been quite impressive. The model is outlined in a detailed document that specifies the roles and responsibilities for both towns. This was also an opportunity for both communities to collaborate and align on the new shared services agreement.

The joint process officially began on January 20th and will be in effect for a year, after which it will be reviewed and refined as needed. Chief John Beatty has reported great results so far, with Hillsdale assisting Rivervale by covering calls when their ambulance is out of service or when a second ambulance is needed. I want to give them kudos for the success of this new venture in emergency services.

On January 21st, there was a regularly scheduled ambulance meeting, where the officers provided updates on various topics including scheduling, new technology, patient surveys, and app usage. They also requested assistance in obtaining a mobile plan for their iPad, and the Borough has offered one of their empty home lines to help.

As part of their cleanup initiative, the ambulance house is looking fantastic. The DPW will be scheduling a shredding event soon to help with documentation disposal, so if you haven't seen the improvements yet, it's worth checking out.

Mayor Sheinfeld asked where we are regarding the third-party vendor for the LEAP Grant. BA Ghassali said we are not quite at that point yet. We're currently in the early stages, having only been two weeks into this new shared services initiative. So far, we've responded to nine calls in Rivervale within that time. We want to build some more history and track record before moving forward with the vendor and the grant application. Once we have more data and can establish a clearer track record, we'll be in a better position to proceed.

Councilman – John Ruocco

The Board of Health met on January 21st. The first item on the agenda was the sad news of the passing of former nurse Barbara DeCaro. Barbara worked for many years as our nurse and played a pivotal role in institutionalizing operations and procedures for the Board of Health. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The Board also reviewed and approved a new three-year contract with Northwest Bergen Regional Health, which includes additional provisions to take over duties that were previously handled by our own borough nurse. Several members of the public attended the Board of Health meeting and voiced opposition to the installation of artificial turf at Memorial Field, citing environmental risks and the increased chance of accidents, particularly with children playing on the field.

The Board discussed the administration of the Municipal Alliance, and the decision has been made for our Recreation Director, Dan Conte, to take on this responsibility. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for February 18th.

The Finance Committee met on February 28th, and we are closing in on the budget. It's been a challenging task, primarily due to rising costs beyond our control and previous decisions made by the Council that are adding to expenses. We will be meeting with the major departments this Thursday, as long as the weather permits.

Regarding Jake's Law, though not a Finance Committee issue. At the last meeting, we passed a resolution to apply for a Jake's Law Grant to develop an accessible playground. However, after further research, we discovered several drawbacks to accepting this funding. The Recreation Director, the BA, and others involved agreed that it might not be the best course of action. As a result, we decided to postpone the grant application.

Borough Administrator – Mike Ghassali

ORDINANCES:

[25-01 – Adoption](#)

An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Ordinance 09-01 Chapter 138 “Fees” and Chapter 71 Swimming Pool Commission

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 138 of the Code of the Borough of Hillsdale is amended and supplemented to include membership fees in the following schedule and definition: Chapter 71, Swimming Pool Commission

RATES FOR 2025

MEMBERSHIP RESIDENT	PRICE ON OR BEFORE MAY 5	PRICE AFTER MAY 5	MEMBERSHIP RESIDENT VOLUNTEER DISCOUNT 25%	PRICE ON OR BEFORE MAY 5	PRICE AFTER MAY 5
Family of 2	\$687.00	\$721.00	Family of 2	\$515.00	\$541.00
Family of 3	\$710.00	\$745.00	Family of 3	\$533.00	\$559.00
Family of 4-5	\$754.00	\$792.00	Family of 4-5	\$566.00	\$594.00
Family of 6-7	\$817.00	\$858.00	Family of 6-7	\$613.00	\$644.00
Family of 8+	\$856.00	\$897.00	Family of 8+	\$642.00	\$673.00
The Graduate (18-25)	\$443.00	\$465.00	The Graduate (18-25)	\$332.00	\$349.00
Young Professional 26-49	\$496.00	\$521.00	Young Professional 26-49	\$372.00	\$391.00
Empty Nester 50-61	\$389.00	\$409.00	Empty Nester 50-61	\$292.00	\$307.00
Senior Citizen 1 62+	\$310.00	\$325.00	Senior Citizen 1 62+	\$233.00	\$244.00
Senior Citizen 2 62+	\$420.00	\$440.00	Senior Citizen 2 62+	\$315.00	\$330.00

MEMBERSHIP NON-RESIDENT	PRICE ON OR BEFORE MAY 5	PRICE AFTER MAY 5	MEMBERSHIP NON- RESIDENT VOLUNTEER DISCOUNT 25%	PRICE ON OR BEFORE MAY 5	PRICE AFTER MAY 5
Family of 2	\$903.00	\$949.00	Family of 2	\$677.00	\$712.00
Family of 3	\$925.00	\$971.00	Family of 3	\$694.00	\$728.00

Family of 4-5	\$940.00	\$987.00	Family of 4-5	\$705.00	\$740.00
Family of 6-7	\$971.00	\$1045.00	Family of 6-7	\$728.00	\$784.00
Family of 8+	\$995.00	\$1076.00	Family of 8+	\$750.00	\$804.00
The Graduate (18-25)	\$550.00	\$578.00	The Graduate (18-25)	\$413.00	\$434.00
Young Professional 26-49	\$605.00	\$634.00	Young Professional 26-49	\$454.00	\$476.00
Empty Nester 50-61	\$497.00	\$522.00	Empty Nester 50-61	\$373.00	\$392.00
Senior Citizen 1 62+	\$362.00	\$380.00	Senior Citizen 1 62+	\$272.00	\$285.00
Senior Citizen 2 62+	\$520.00	\$546.00	Senior Citizen 2 62+	\$390.00	\$410.00

VOLUNTEER:

Persons serving the Borough of Hillsdale who are either elected or appointed to a Borough Board Office, Department or commission and who are required to take an oath of office.

Volunteers shall include but not limited to Mayor and Council, Fire Department, Department of Health, Environmental Commission, Recreation Committee, Swimming Pool Commission, Hillsdale Board of Education Members, Police Reserve and Ambulance

All memberships are subject to the following:

Credit Card Convenience Fee, Implementation Fee, Return Check Fee \$20.00

SECTION II. Chapter 71 “Swimming Pool Commission,” Section 71-2 Members is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

MEMBERS:

C. Compensation: The member of the commission shall serve without salary or other compensation for their service. Excluded from the prohibition is membership rate afforded by Borough Volunteers.

SECTION III:

	PRICE
Guest Pass Discount Book	\$ 85.00
Daily Guest Pass Adult (weekdays & weekends)	\$ 20.00
Daily Guest Pass Child (weekdays & weekends) Under 17	\$ 13.00
Daily Guest Pass Senior 62+	\$ 16.00
Private Lessons Members - 1 Child ½ hour	\$ 45.00
Private Lessons Members – 2 Children ½ hour	\$ 65.00
Private Lessons Non-Members 1 Child ½ hour	\$ 55.00
Private Lessons Non-Members 2 Children ½ hour	\$ 75.00
Group Swim Lessons Members	\$ 100.00
Group Swim Lessons Non-Members	\$125.00
Jr. Lifeguard Classes (each)	\$135-\$200.00
Group Swim Lessons – Camp Day	\$ 75.00
Mommy or Daddy & Me – Members	\$ 50.00
Mommy or Daddy & Me – Non-Members	\$ 65.00
Fab Four – Members	\$ 60.00
Fab-Four – Non-Members	\$ 70.00
Babysitter each (max 2 per family)	\$140.00
Swim Team (must be a member)	\$125.00
Dive Team (must be a member)	\$ 80.00
Swim & Dive Team (Maximum)	\$300.00
Group Dive Lessons - Member	\$ 50.00
Group Dive Lessons – Non-Members	\$ 55.00
In House Camps Seniors or Children (Per Week)	\$200-500.00
In House Camp daily use (per Senior or Child)	\$ 20.00

Chair Storage Senior 62+	\$ 14.00
Camp FD Fees – HD & RV per camper	\$ 70.00
Ping Pong Balls (each)	\$.25
ID Replacement	\$ 12.00
Swim Team Rental per hour	\$ 30.00
Grandparent membership (must be sponsored by a member)	\$180.00

	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Lounge Chair Rental Daily	\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00
Guppy Swim Camper – per session	\$ 150.00	\$ 400.00
Spirit Wear Clothing	\$ 3.00	\$ 15.00
Selling of Snack Foods	\$ 1.00	\$ 50.00
Fin Fitness Camp (per week – ages 5-12)	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
Fitness Camp (per week – adults 18+)	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
Water Polo (Adults 18+) per lane/per hour	\$ 22.00	\$ 50.00
Dry Land Training – per hour	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Scuba & Snorkel Instruction (per person)	\$ 35.00	\$ 300.00

	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Aqua Aerobics (Members & Non-members) per class	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
Yoga (Members & Non-members) per class	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
Special Events (Ladies Night/Family Night & other)	\$ 10.00	\$ 65.00
Non-Hillsdale Camp Parties/Sports Parties (1 day – 3 hours)	\$ 300.00	\$ 1200.00
Outside Private Swim/Dive Team Rental	\$4000.00	\$60000.00
Friday Night's 6-10 pm Non-Member Adult	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00
Friday Night's 6-10 pm Non-Member Child	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00
Friday Night's 6-10 pm Non-Member Senior 62+	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00
Parking Lot Use Fee	\$ 5.00	\$10000.00
Drool In the Pool (per pet)	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
Beer Garden	\$ 10.00	\$ 500.00
Rummage/Yard Sale	\$ 5.00	\$ 25.00
Car Show	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00
Vendor Show	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00
Mermaid Swim Class Adult or Children	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Forever Friends Program	\$ 50.00	\$ 800.00
Senior Citizens Camp Program	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00
Family Fun Day	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00
Dinner Theme Night	\$ 10.00	\$ 200.00
Outside Camp Rental	\$ 500.00	\$ 6000.00

PRIVATE PARTIES	HEADCOUNT	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Parties until 8pm (4 hours)	100 people	\$ 1000.00	\$ 1200.00
	101-150 people	\$ 1300.00	\$ 1800.00
	151-200 people	\$ 2000.00	\$ 3000.00
	201-300 people	\$ 3500.00	\$ 4000.00
Parties after 8pm – 11pm	100 people	\$ 1200.00	\$ 1800.00
	101-150 people	\$ 1900.00	\$ 3000.00
	151-300 people	\$ 2500.00	\$ 3100.00
	301-400 people	\$ 3200.00	\$ 3600.00

	401-500 people	\$ 3700.00	\$ 4200.00
School Parties (4 hours)		\$ 1400.00	\$ 2000.00
Family Parties – Non-Members (2 hours) – open		\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00
Birthday Parties, Parties, Members, club open (2 hours daytime)		\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00

***NO REFUNDS ON ANY MEMBERSHIP AFTER MAY 26, 2025- NO REFUNDS ON ANY MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, GUEST PASSES OR PARTY FEES**

***New members only promotion of 10% to 20% off— one per family discount at designated open house or special promotion**

SECTION IV:

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval and publication of notice thereof as required by law, and the provisions of this ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 25-01 Colletti Second Trochimiuk

Ayes: Council President Osso, Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No 25-01, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-01 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 25-01 Ruocco Second Osso

Ayes: Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-01 Ruocco Second Osso

Ayes: Councilmembers Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

25-02 – Adoption

An Ordinance Establishing Salary Ranges for the Staff of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission in the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1:

The Compensation of all personnel whose services are required for the operation, maintenance and regulation of the Facility as approved by the Swimming Pool Commission is as follows:

SALARY RANGE

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MIN.</u>	<u>MAX</u>
A. Manager/Director	\$32,000.00	\$90,000.00
B. First Assistant	\$9,000.00	\$28,000.00
C. Second Assistant	\$8,000.00	\$15,000.00
D. Third Assistant	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00
E. Fourth Assistant	\$6,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
F. Office Manager	\$5,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
G. Maintenance Manager	\$15.13 hourly	\$ 21.00 hourly
H. Pre-Season Staff	\$15.13 hourly	\$18.00 hourly
I. Secretary/Office Staff	\$15.13 hourly	\$25.00 hourly

SECTION 11:

Trained Lifeguards: Part time minimum age 15 years, Full time age 16 years. Recreation: Minimum age 15 years, Gate: Minimum age 15 years, Cashiers Minimum age 17 years. Maintenance: Minimum age 17 years. Seasonal Employees over the age of 18 maintain the New Jersey State Minimum Wage.

<u>LIFEGUARDS</u>	<u>RANGE/HOURLY</u>		<u>GATE/REC</u>	<u>RANGE/HOURLY</u>	
	<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>		<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>
	\$15.13	\$21.00		\$15.13	\$21.00
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MIN</u>		<u>MAX</u>		
J. Coordinator of Group swim lessons	\$750.00		\$2,000.00		
K. Lifeguard safety instructor	\$900.00		\$1,500.00		
L. Head Lifeguard	\$700.00		\$1,500.00		
M. Business Manager Swim/Dive	\$550.00		\$1,100.00		
N. Gate Manager	\$600.00		\$1,200.00		
O. Guppy Camp Director-3 weeks	\$2,000.00		\$4,000.00		
P. Camp director- Other in-house camps	\$1,000.00		\$3,200.00		
Q. Aqua Fin Fit Camp Director (kids 5-12)	\$700.00		\$1,100.00		
R. Aquatic Fit Camp Director (18+)	\$700.00		\$1,100.00		
S. Adult Camp Director	\$500.00		\$2,000.00		
T. Social Media coordinator	\$500.00		\$4,500.00		
U. Swim lesson Instructor per lesson (group)	\$15.13		\$30.00		

SECTION 111:

A part time/halftime Lifeguard must earn at least \$4,000 the previous year to move up to full time.

ADDITIONAL RATES:

CPR Instructor	\$1.25 hourly
EMT Certification	\$2.00 hourly
Teach private swim lessons (1 child)	\$20.00 half hour
Teach private swim lessons (2 children)	\$24.00 half hour

Managing Director Certified Red Cross Lifeguard manager/Director	\$1,500.00
Managing Director – Certified Pool Operator	\$2,000.00

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MIN.</u>	<u>MAX</u>
Head Swim Coach	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
Head Dive Coach	\$ 500.00	\$4,500.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 1	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 2	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 3	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 4	\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 5	\$ 800.00	\$ 900.00
Yoga Instructor	\$ 300.00	\$ 800.00
Aqua Aerobics Instructor	\$ 350.00	\$ 900.00
Admin. Clerical Help	\$18.00 hourly	\$ 25.00-hourly
Jr. Lifeguard Class Instructor (each class)	\$225.00	\$ 500.00

SECTION IV:

The compensation fixed and determined by this ordinance for the persons holding the respective offices and positions of employment herein named, shall in lieu of all other fees, costs and charges received and collected by such officers and employees shall be remitted promptly to the Borough treasurer.

SECTION V:

All ordinances and resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION VI:

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval and publications of notice. Thereof as required by law, and provisions of the ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 25-02 Trochimiuk Second Mazza-Chiong
 Ayes: Councilmembers Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk
 Nays: none
 Absent: Fox

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No 25-02, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-02 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 25-02 Ruocco Second Osso
 Ayes: Councilmembers Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti

Nays: None
Absent: Fox

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-02 Ruocco Second Trochimiuk
Ayes: Councilmembers Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti
Nays: none
Absent: Fox

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

25-03 – (Adoption)

An Ordinance Establishing Recreation Department Program and Summer Camp Fees in the Borough of Hillsdale

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale as follows:

SECTION 1. The Hillsdale Summer Camp season for children of Hillsdale and River Vale residents and for children attending Hillsdale schools (St. John’s included) shall operate camp for a maximum of 5 weeks.

SECTION 2. The **Summer Camp Fees** per registrant are as follows:

	Hillsdale/ River Vale <u>Resident</u>	St. John’s Student/ <u>Non-Resident</u>
Camp Little Hawk (kindergarten)	\$1,100	\$1,150
Camp Pascack, Grades 1 – 4	\$1,350	\$1,400
Camp Adventure, Grades 5 – 6	\$1,450	\$1,500
Field Trip Camp, Grades 7 – 9	\$1,550	\$1,600
Early reg discount before March 29, 2024	\$50	\$50
Late registration fee after May 8, 2024	\$75	\$75
MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT OR NOT INCUR LATE FEE		
Before Camp Program (8:00 – 9:00 am)		
Pre-Registered (all weeks)	\$350	\$350
Pre-Registered (per week)	\$80	\$80
Pre-Registered (per day)	\$30	\$30
No pre-registration (per day)	\$40	\$40
After Camp Program (3:00 – 6:00 pm)		
Pre-Registered (all weeks)	\$600	\$600
Pre-Registered (per week)	\$150	\$150
Pre-Registered (per day)	\$40	\$40
No pre-registration (per day)	\$45	\$45
Late pick-up (after 6:00 pm, Per 15-minute increment.)	\$25	\$25

NO REFUNDS

SECTION 3. The **Recreation Program Fees** per registrant are as follows:

	<u>Hillsdale Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Men’s Basketball	\$85	\$95
Duplicate Bridge	\$25	\$35
Indoor Soccer	\$55	\$70
Youth basketball (kindergarten clinic)	\$90	\$100
Youth Basketball (1,2, Grade Clinic)	\$95	\$105
Youth Basketball (3 rd to 8th Grade,	\$130, per child	\$140
Youth Basketball (9th to 12 th Grade, *RV)	\$130 each child	\$140

Women's Volleyball	\$60	\$70
Girls Instructional Volleyball	\$75	\$90
Men's 18 & over Softball	\$650/per team	N/A
Men's 35 & over Softball	\$70	\$80
Women's 18 & over Softball	\$65	\$75
Wrestling	\$150	\$160
Rutgers Coaches Class	\$50	\$60
Art Program, per class or (session)	\$25 - \$250	N/A
Cooking per class or (session)	\$15-\$100	N/A
PGA Golf Program	\$100-\$500	N/A
Navigators and Voyager Programs	\$25-\$75	\$25-\$75
Tennis Program	\$75-\$150	\$75-\$150
Women's Basketball 18+	\$65	\$65 \$75
Kickball Adults	\$60-\$65	\$60-\$65
Kickball kids	\$45-\$55	\$45-\$55
Pickleball	\$30-\$200	\$30-\$200
Outdoor Volleyball	\$60-\$80	\$60-\$80
Chess	\$50-\$100	\$50-\$100
Flag Football	\$100-\$150	\$100-\$150
Ski Program	\$50-\$100	\$50-\$100
First Friends (per child)	\$5-\$10	\$5-\$10
Ice Skating	\$125-\$130	\$125-\$130
Returned Check Fee	\$20	\$20
Car show participant's	\$25-\$35	\$25-\$35
Vendors	\$30-\$75	\$30-\$75
5k run	\$5-\$75	\$5-\$75
Music Program	\$100-\$300	\$100-\$300
Late Fee	\$25	\$25
Credit Card Convenience Fee	3%	3%
Use of Beechwood Park – Field Use	\$50	\$85
Various Misc. Recreation Programs	\$5-\$100	\$5-\$100

BEECHWOOD PARK RENTAL

*Beechwood Park rental w/o band shell
(resident use only)*

\$100 under 50 people
 \$150 51-100 people
 \$200 101-200 people
 \$250 201-300 people
 \$TBD 301-500 people

*Beechwood Park rental w/o band shell and Picnic area
and picnic area (Hillsdale only commercial business)*

\$150 under 50 People
 \$250 51-100 people
 \$350 101-200 people
 \$450 201-300 people
 \$TBD 301-500 people

*Beechwood Park rental band shell/picnic area
(Non-resident only)*

\$125 under 50 people
 \$175 51-100 people
 \$250 101-200 people
 \$300 201-300 people
 \$TBD 301-500 people

*Beechwood Park rental Band Shell/picnic area
(Non-resident Commercial business)*

\$175 under 50 People
 \$325 51-100 people
 \$425 101-200 people
 \$525 201-300 people
 \$TBD 301-500 people

Use of Beechwood Park – Field Use additional charge \$50 (3-hour max) Residents,
 Nonresidents \$85 (3-hour max)

Field rental* non-Hillsdale Team

\$125 per practice (max 3 hours)

Field rental *non-Hillsdale Team

\$125 per game (max 3 hours)

- Memorial, Stonybrook and Centennial Fields

**All programs and field rentals are NON-REFUNDABLE.
& Are subject to a Covid-19 Fee of %10 per person**

** No Organized Sport or teams

*Grades 9-12 includes Pascack Valley High School Students (River Vale) including all girl's 3rd to 9th grade.

SECTION 4. All ordinances and resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval and publication of notice thereof as required by law and shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 25-03 Trochimiuk Second Ruocco

Ayes: Council President Osso, Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No 25-03 please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-03 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 25-03 Trochimiuk Second Ruocco

Ayes: Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-03 Trochimiuk Second Ruocco

Ayes: Councilmembers Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

[25-04 – Adoption](#)

An Ordinance Establishing Salaries for the Recreation Department

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 25-04 Trochimiuk Second Ruocco

Ayes: Councilmembers Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No 25-04, please say your name and wait to be recognized, once recognized state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-04 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 25-04 Colletti Second Mazza Chiong
Ayes: Councilmembers Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti
Nays: none
Absent: Fox

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-04 Ruocco Second Colletti
Ayes: Councilmembers Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti
Nays: none
Absent: Fox

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

RESOLUTIONS:(Consent Agenda): 25059 through 25071:

[25059](#) Resolution Authorizing the Agreement with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Care Commission – Public Health Nursing Services

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:52-1 et seq. the Borough of Hillsdale is required to provide health services to their residents; and

WHEREAS; the Borough of Hillsdale received a proposal from Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission (“NWBRHC”) for the provision of public health nursing services of a professional nature at the price of:

For January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Annual Fee: \$15,785.00

Monthly Payment: \$1,315 per month

For January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Annual Fee: \$16,100.70

Monthly Payment: \$1,342 per month

For January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027

Annual Fee: \$16,422.71

Monthly Payment: \$1,369 per month

WHEREAS, in addition, “NWBRHC” will also provide child health conference services based upon the current Department of Health Publication, “Guidelines for the Child Health Conference”.

The Borough of Hillsdale shall be assessed a fee of \$35 per child for examinations, and a fee of \$20 per child for immunizations and will be billed each quarter directly to the municipality by “NWBRHC”; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement shall be for (3) three years retroactive from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the cost of same is set forth in the agreement received by the Borough of Hillsdale on January 22, 2025 the terms of which are incorporated by reference herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale hereby authorize the Mayor and/or Borough Administrator to execute the Public Health Services agreement with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission.

R25060 was pulled by Councilwoman Trochimiuk to off consent

[25061](#) Amending Resolutions 24009 & 24291 That Awarded a Non-Fair and Open Contract to McManimon, Scotland & Bauman for Special Council for Redevelopment

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the Borough Council adopted Resolution No. 24009 which awarded a Non-Fair and Open Contract to McManimon, Scotland & Bauman Special Counsel for Redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary to amend Resolution No. 24009 with Resolution No. 24291 to increase the contract price from \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00 in order to cover additional services; and

WHEREAS, McManimon, Scotland & Bauman, LLC has provided additional services regarding the Borough of Hillsdale's Redevelopment Plan in connection with the proposed Self Storage Facility, necessitating additional projected billing for these services; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Resolution No. 24009 & Resolution No. 24291 to increase the contract price by \$11,045.00 from \$30,000.00 to \$41,045.00 in order to cover these additional services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Resolution No. 24009 & Resolution 24291 is hereby amended to increase the contract price by \$11,045.00 from \$30,000.00 to \$41,045.00 in order to cover projected additional costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that except as amended herein, Resolution No.24009 & Resolution 24291 shall remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall cause a notice of this action to be published once in the Ridgewood News.

[25062](#) Amending Resolutions 24000 & 24292 That Awarded a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Mark Madaio for Borough Attorney for the Borough of Hillsdale

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the Borough Council adopted Resolution No. 24000 which awarded a Fair and Open Contract to Mark Madaio Esq. for Borough Attorney for the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary to amend Resolution 24000 with Resolution 24292 to increase the contract price from \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00 in order to cover additional services; and

WHEREAS, Mark Madaio Esq. has provided additional legal services for the Borough, necessitating additional projected billing for these services; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Resolution No. 24000 and Resolution 24292 to increase the contract price by \$1,105.00 from \$45,000.00 to \$46,105.00 in order to cover these additional services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Resolution No. 24000 and Resolution No. 24292 is hereby amended to increase the contract price by \$1,105.00 from \$45,000.00 to \$46,105.00 in order to cover projected additional costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that except as amended herein, Resolution No.24000 and Resolution No. 24292 shall remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall cause a notice of this action to be published once in the Ridgewood News.

[25063](#) Amending Resolutions 24011 That Awarded a Non-Fair and Open Contract to CGP&H for Affordable Housing Services for the Borough

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the Borough Council adopted Resolution No. 24011 which awarded a Fair and Open Contract to for an Affordable Housing Administrative Agent for Housing Rehabilitation Program Services for the calendar year 2024; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Resolution No. 24011 to increase the contract price by \$1,817.00 from \$12,000.00 to \$13,817.00 in order to cover additional services; and

WHEREAS, Community Grants Planning & Housing, whose address is 1249 South River Road, Suite 301, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 (hereinafter referred to as “CGP&H”) has provided additional housing services for the Borough, necessitating additional projected billing for these services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Resolution No. 24011 is hereby amended to increase the contract price by \$1,817.00 from \$12,000.00 to \$13,817.00 in order to cover additional services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that except as amended herein, Resolution No.24011 shall remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall cause a notice of this action to be published once in the Ridgewood News.

[25064](#) Amending Resolutions 24006 That Awarded a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Wiss & Bouregy, P.C. for Borough Labor Attorney for the Borough of Hillsdale

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the Borough Council adopted Resolution No. 24006 which awarded a Fair and Open Contract to Wiss & Bouregy, P.C. for Borough Labor Attorney for the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Resolution No. 24006 to increase the contract price by \$5,840.00 from \$15,000.00 to \$20,840.00 in order to cover these additional services; and

WHEREAS, Wiss & Bouregy, P.C. has provided additional legal services for the Borough, necessitating additional projected billing for these services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Resolution No. 24006 is hereby amended to increase the contract price by \$5,840.00 from \$15,000.00 to \$20,840.00 in order to cover projected additional costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that except as amended herein, Resolution No.24006 shall remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall cause a notice of this action to be published once in the Ridgewood News.

[25065](#) Resolution of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey Supporting RevolutionNJ

WHEREAS, Governor Philip Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature created RevolutionNJ in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, New Jersey’s pivotal role in the American Revolution, and the contributions of its diverse peoples to the nation’s past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Historical Commission, under the leadership of Secretary of State Tahesha Way, with its non-profit partner Crossroads of the American Revolution established RevolutionNJ to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will engage New Jerseyans in all 21 counties and 564 municipalities through its officially recognized programs, initiatives, and events over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and desirable that we commemorate the beginning of the Nation and the role New Jersey played over the past 250 years as well as its present and future role as part of the United States, with particular focus on the individuals, ideas, and events that shaped our Country, State, and Borough; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will consider the role New Jersey played during the American Revolution when it saw more battles and skirmishes than any other state and was truly the Crossroads of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will highlight the role New Jerseyans played beyond the battlefield during the American Revolution when people of diverse backgrounds contributed to the development of the State and the Nation in various ways and fought for the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, preserving, studying, and enjoying state history strengthens communities and builds bonds between New Jersey residents as we work together toward the goals of justice and equality embedded in the United States Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Hillsdale hereby endorses RevolutionNJ and its mission to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism and scholarship in New Jersey.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale commemorates the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States as an independent Nation.
2. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale authorizes the appointment of a committee to develop a plan for this commemoration that will promote the maximum involvement of our residents, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, civic organizations, and institutions in the commemorations.
3. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale further urges all its residents to reflect upon the significance of this event and the role that our State and its diverse people have played in the history and development of our Nation and to participate in this important commemoration, endeavoring to include the stories of all those whose lives are part of the history of what we now know as New Jersey, and understanding that the revolution continues today as we uphold the revolutionary ideals articulated in our founding documents.

[25066](#) Resolution Hiring Temporary Seasonal Laborer Kenneth Kasper – Department of Public Works

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a Temporary Seasonal Laborer for the snow removal season within the Borough of Hillsdale Department of Public Works; and,

WHEREAS, Kenneth Kasper meets the requirements to fill the position at the Department of Public Works; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council Borough that Kenneth Kasper is hereby appointed to the position of Temporary Seasonal Laborer in the Department of Public Works, effective approximately January 1, 2025 until approximately April 30, 2025 as needed, at the CDL rate of \$35.00 per hour and not to exceed 40 hours per week for the snow removal season.

[25067](#) Resolution Granting Tax Exempt Status Valley Chabad Inc.

WHEREAS, Valley Chabad Inc., has made application with the Borough Tax Assessor for a property tax exemption for 150 Wierimus Road; (Block 101, Lot 3.01) in the Borough of Hillsdale in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.35; and,

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Tax Assessor has reviewed Valley Chabad Inc.'s application for a parsonage classification and was approved effective January 1, 2025, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that the property known as 150 Wierimus Road is hereby designated as a tax-exempt property, Class 15F, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax collector cancel the 1st quarter tax billing and cancel all future property taxes on said property.

[25068](#) Resolution Appointing Frank Scarpati to the Position of Foreman

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale (the "Borough") currently employs Frank Scarpati as an Operator within the Department of Public Works; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough is in need of appointing a Foreman within the Department of Public Works, and;

WHEREAS, Frank Scarpati possesses the requisite skills, knowledge and work experience to hold the position of Foreman; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that Frank Scarpati be promoted to the position of Foreman at an annual salary of \$96,789.63; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough to promote Frank Scarpati to the position of Foreman effective February 5, 2025 at an annual salary of \$96,789.63.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Hillsdale that Frank Scarpati be promoted to the position of Foreman effective February 5, 2025 at an annual salary of \$96,789.63.

[25069](#) Resolution Hiring Full Time Laborer – Derek Blankenbush to the Department of Public Works

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a Full Time Laborer within the Borough of Hillsdale Department of Public Works; and,

WHEREAS, Derek Blankenbush meets the requirements to fill the position at the Department of Public Works; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council Borough that Derek Blankenbush is hereby appointed to the position of Full Time Laborer in the Department of Public Works, effective on or about February 18, 2025 at the annual salary rate of \$46,350.00.

[25070](#) Resolution of the Borough of Hillsdale Appointing a Municipal Alliance Coordinator

WHEREAS, Legislation created P.L. 1989 establishing the Governor’s Council on alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the creating of a network of volunteers throughout New Jersey’s communities called the Municipal Alliance Program; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Alliance Program was created to allow change to be developed from the ground up, allowing communities to make local decisions and empower them to make changes from within the community; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to appoint a Municipal Alliance Coordinator to help administer the needs of the Program; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Conte has the skills, experience and is qualified to fulfill the requirements of the position of Municipal Alliance Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are desirous in appointing Daniel Conte to fill the position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that Daniel Conte is hereby appointed Municipal Alliance Coordinator of the Borough of Hillsdale for the year 2025-2026 at a stipend of \$2000.00.

[25071](#) Authorize Transfer Between Budget Appropriations Reserves

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to expend funds in excess of the amounts approved in the Calendar Year 2024 budget of the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, there exist certain budget expenditures with funds available in excess of the amounts approved in the Calendar Year 2024 budget of the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 permits the transfer of such funds during the first three months of the Reserve Budget Year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that, based on the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer, the following transfers be made to the Calendar Year 2024 Current Fund Reserve Budget:

<u>Current Fund</u>		From	To
4-01-20-120-042	CLERK - Education & Training	\$ 2,500.00	
4-01-20-120-028	CLERK - Contractual Services	\$ 1,500.00	
4-01-20-103-028	Public Info Contractual Svc	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>	
Sub-total		\$ 7,500.00	
4-01-20-100-028	ADMIN OE - Contractual Services		<u>\$ 7,500.00</u>
Sub-total			\$ 7,500.00

Motion Colletti Second Ruocco

Ayes: Council President Osso, Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong

Nays: none

Absent: Fox

OFF-CONSENT:

[25060](#) Resolution Granting Tax Exempt Status – New Concepts for Living

WHEREAS, New Concepts for Living, has made application with the Borough Tax Assessor for a property tax exemption for 33 Ruckman Road; (Block 2004, Lot 3) in the Borough of Hillsdale in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4; and,

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Tax Assessor has reviewed New Concepts for Living’s application for a special needs adult housing classification and was approved effective January 1, 2025, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that the property known as 33 Ruckman Road is hereby designated as a tax-exempt property, Class 15F, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax collector cancel the 1st quarter tax billing and cancel all future property taxes on said property.

Councilwoman Trochimiuk pulled this resolution because she believes the property in question is the one on Ruckman. There was some conversation last year regarding this property, and I was looking to understand the outcome or settlement of the discussion, particularly in relation to affordable housing. Could you update us on how that issue ended up, and where things stand now?

The Borough Attorney stated he discussed this with Darlene, and our planner, and we went over whether the actions we were considering would actually result in beneficial affordable housing units. It was determined that, due to how the credits are counted, even if we had pursued mediation, legal action, or other steps, the credits offered would not have helped us meet our round three affordable housing obligations. Mayor Sheinfield added that the key factor here was the term "beneficial." So, despite the potential to engage in further discussions, we ultimately decided not to pursue it. That was the outcome.

In addition, the Borough Attorney added that this is just a normal application for tax-exempt status for real estate taxes. These requests are reviewed by our assessor, and it's not really something we have direct control over. The assessor determines if the property meets the definition for the exemption, which is usually granted to a variety of properties. As a result, the decision rests largely with the assessor, and we don't have much grounds to deny it.

As for the property title, there are no deed restrictions placed on it, and there were no affordable housing actions taken. If, for any reason, the property changes its use or becomes nonexempt, it will be placed back on the tax rolls. For example, if this house were to be sold as a regular property in the future, it would no longer have tax-exempt status and would be taxed accordingly.

Just like other exempt properties, such as houses of worship or firehouses, if they are no longer used for their exempt purposes, they would go back on the tax rolls.

Ayes: Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso
Nays: none
Absent: Fox

Councilman Ruocco asked that Resolution 25042 from the last meeting be considered at this time, which is regarding the Jake's Law grant.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MORE INCLUSIVE AND UPDATED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOROUGH

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale - Recreation Department desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$485,745.00 (25% of the project to be funded by the Borough – approximately \$162,500.00) to carry out a project to purchase more inclusive and updated playground equipment for the Borough; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and, recognizes that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also upon receipt of the fully

executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Borough of Hillsdale and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayor and/or Borough Administrator are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

Motion – Ruocco Second: Trochimiuk

Councilman Ruocco stated that this resolution was initially proposed to ask the council for approval to apply for the Jake's Law Grant, which would have allowed us to use the funds to build a partially accessible playground somewhere in the borough—potentially at Beechwood Park or another location. However, after researching the implications of receiving the grant, we discovered that there would be some negative consequences for the borough if we proceeded with it. During internal discussions, particularly within the recreation committee, the council concluded that we did not want to take on these potential liabilities. While this issue wasn't formally on the agenda for a vote tonight, I believe it's important to clarify the reasoning behind our decision.

Mayor Sheinfeld stated that since this resolution was not on the agenda, he was looking for a motion to have this resolution untabled.

That motion was given by councilman Ruocco and Seconded by Councilwoman Trochimiuk all were in favor (Councilman Fox is absent)

A motion was made by Councilman Ruocco and Seconded by Councilwoman Trochimiuk to vote on this resolution.

All councilmembers voted no (Councilman Fox was absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT: (time limited to 3 minutes any topic-please state your name and town of residence for the record)

Father Peter – St. John's the Baptist Hillsdale

He shared with the council a letter that he wrote that strongly expresses opposition to the proposed construction of a four-story storage facility near St. John's Parish property in Hillsdale. He emphasizes the long-term, negative impact this development could have on the church and its surrounding community, which has been an important institution for almost a century. St. John's is a significant religious, educational, and cultural center for approximately 2,000 families across Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. His letter stresses the importance of treating the community with respect and considers the location of the storage facility as culturally insensitive, particularly because of its proximity to the church entrance. Additionally, the area already faces regular flooding, which would worsen with the development. He requests serious consideration of the church's historical and ongoing contributions to the community, drawing attention to the need to protect the local environment, especially near public parks.

Douglas Bower – Hillsdale

Mr. Bower emphasizes his deep connection to both the community and St. John the Baptist Parish. With a strong background in finance and risk management, Bower expresses concern over the potential risks posed by the stream behind the church, which has been a longstanding issue. He describes his experience in identifying and addressing safety hazards, such as dangerous trees and infrastructure, and highlights the threat of water overflow near the church, particularly during heavy rains. Bower urges the community to carefully consider the risks associated with nearby developments, as the ongoing construction could exacerbate these flooding issues. He stresses that this is a serious safety concern, especially with increasing rainfall patterns, and urges the town to take action.

Sawyer Wilkin – Hillsdale

He would like permission from the Mayor and Council for his Eagle Scout Project. He would like to paint the house numbers on curbs in approved sections of the town to make them more visible for emergency service purposes. His plans are to complete this by mid-summer of this year. There would be no cost to the town. The Borough Attorney suggests that the town consult the Borough Engineer and Emergency Services. The BA stated that he needs a maintenance plan as well. The Administrator will discuss this with the Professionals and will get back to him.

Gerry Beatty – Hillsdale

Acknowledged Father Peters' concerns but she understands that if a self-storage facility isn't built, something else will be. She emphasizes that the property will be developed regardless. The Borough Attorney clarified that the property isn't ours. She expressed stronger opposition to more apartments due to the potential negative impact on schools and traffic.

The Borough Attorney reminded everyone that the site was once a garbage dump, and that the Borough had fought to oppose renewing the facility's license. The purpose of the redevelopment was to eliminate the dump, along with developing the surrounding lots. As part of the third round of Affordable Housing, this plan meets the obligation of the town to build 40 affordable homes. The developer intends to use the rest of the property in line with this plan. Since the developer owns the property, they can proceed with development as long as it aligns with the Redevelopment Plan.

Theresa Henry – Hillsdale

She inquired about the current stage of the approval process for the plan. The Borough Attorney explained that the town had been asked to tweak the Redevelopment Plan slightly to accommodate a storage facility, which is already allowed at this location. She expressed concerns about the potential impact on St. John's property, particularly regarding flooding and the aesthetic issues a storage facility might present. She also questioned whether St. John's had been properly consulted, as the Planning Board's role is to protect the rights of neighbors. She opposed the construction, feeling it wouldn't benefit the church community. Mayor Sheinfield responded, clarifying that this type of structure is already permitted in the Redevelopment Plan, and the developer has the right to build it.

Steven Antico – River Vale

Some of the concerns is the integrity of the Church property. It has already been compromised by the water. He is concerned that the proposed facility will have a similar effect on the church. They do not know the process. He will be counseling the church as he is an attorney in order to evaluate what is being undertaken. He would like it known that they are objecting to the project.

Mark DiPisa- Hillsdale

Questioned whether a water impact study had been conducted by either the developer or the Borough Engineers. Mayor Sheinfield replied that the developer is required to include a water containment system in their plan. This means that any construction must ensure that water is contained within the specific block and lot, addressing potential water-related concerns.

Chris Martin – Hillsdale

He attended the Recreation Commission meeting last night and reviewed the new plan, which he liked overall.

However, he remains opposed to the inclusion of lights in the plan. He suggested reallocating the money intended for the lights to fund the proposed all-access playground, as requested by a previous resident. Security and cameras were not discussed, and while poles and netting were mentioned, they are not included in the plan. He believes this issue should be addressed as well.

He also raised the topic of Borough Ordinance 12-04, which prohibits parking on the streets between 2:00 AM and 5:00 AM. He suggested that this ordinance be reviewed for possible changes.

William Filon – River Vale

He mentioned that he hasn't heard any discussion about remediation due to the proximity of the parish, expressing concerns about the history of the site and potential contamination. The Borough Attorney responded that these issues would be addressed at the Planning Board meeting. If remediation is necessary, the developer must carry it out, and if runoff is a problem, it must be managed. The Borough Attorney clarified that this type of use is already permitted at the location, and the ordinance before the council is simply a minor adjustment to what has been allowed since the 2020 Redevelopment Plan.

Kristin Martin – Hillsdale

She lives within 200 feet of the field but did not receive formal notification about the meeting and would like someone to investigate why she was not informed, given her proximity. She expressed concerns about the costs associated with the field, especially the expense of the lights. While she supports the idea of ADA-compliant playgrounds and believes they should be the priority, she has also heard concerns regarding the use of a turf field versus a more natural field. She was just made aware of the poles for the nets and hopes that the development of Memorial Field isn't being prioritized at the expense of other fields.

Before closing the Public Comment Session, Mayor Sheinfield made a statement. He explained that the property at 1208 Lot 1 is owned by a developer and is set to be redeveloped. The goal of the redevelopment plan is to revitalize the industrial area, attract thriving businesses, and increase tax revenue for the community. The developer had presented plans last year for a self-storage facility, which has always been an approved use under the redevelopment plan passed in November 2020. The developer has the right to develop the property under this approved use.

From the Borough's perspective, a self-storage facility is considered a good fit for the property, as it would have a lower impact on traffic and be more aesthetically pleasing than other alternatives. It would also not contribute to an increase in the school population. In 2024, the property generated \$17,528.47 in taxes, but under the proposed plan, the taxes would increase to over \$200,000.

The Borough also shares concerns with Father Peter and the church community regarding flooding. Any development on the property does require a water containment system as part of the plan.

Mayor Sheinfield mentioned that he personally called the archdiocese and offered to arrange a meeting with them, along with anyone from the council, the Administrator, or others they choose, to discuss the situation. However, as of today, he had not received a response. He emphasized that his job, along with the council's, is to protect the interests of the residents, and that is what they will continue to do.

Mayor Sheinfield closed the Public Comment Period of the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Mayor Sheinfield had the pleasure of attending the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Troop 108. Hudson Guzman achieved the level of Eagle Scout at the age of 15 and he congratulated him and the others that achieved this level at the ceremony.

Councilman Ruocco acknowledged February as Black History Month and took the opportunity to recognize his granddaughter, who is learning about her dual heritage.

Councilmember Mazza Chiong congratulated the Hillsdale Hawk Pee Wees on their Superbowl Championship as well as the Cheerleaders for all their hard work and dedication. She thanked Michaela for taking the time to speak to the council regarding the ADA playground as well as commending Sawyer Wilkin on all his hard work on the idea for his Eagle Scout project. She too recognized February as being Black History Month.

Councilmember Colletti congratulated Hudson Guzman on achieving his level of Eagle Scout. He also recognized all the hard work by Sawyer Wilkin on his project idea to become an Eagle Scout.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn Ruocco Second Trochimiuk

All in favor: Councilmembers Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Colletti, Mazza-Chiong, Council President Osso

Absent: Fox

Denise Kohan, Municipal Clerk

Approved as Presented