

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 1, 2022

To Access the Council Meeting on-line:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8945664822?pwd=NS9HT2FINjgyVzIGUEVJK2IRdHIzQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 566 4822

Passcode: 07642

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 894 566 4822 Passcode: 07642

You will be able to address the Mayor and Council during the public session part of the meetings only or any public hearing session. The mayor will identify you by your login information. You will need to state your name and town of residence for the record. For the public session section of the meeting, you are limited to one new topic only, with a 5-minute limit.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Ruocco called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ruocco began the meeting with the Open Public Meeting Statement:

This is a meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 1st day of February 2022. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News and The Record; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. 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.

ROLL CALL:

Borough Clerk Denise Kohan took roll call:

Council Members DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk
(Mayor Ruocco, Borough Attorney Madaio, Borough Administrator Tietjen, Borough Clerk Kohan)
All members listed were in attendance.

INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limited, new topics only, one topic per speaker):

William Haffler – Westwood

This is his final meeting as the Superintendent of Public Works. He thanked several people for the last 4 years that he has been in Hillsdale. He gave a special thank you to his crew and his assistant for always going the extra mile as well as several Borough Professionals and to the council who hired him.

He wishes everyone well and good wishes for the future.

Jonathan DeJoseph – Hillsdale

He stated that it’s sad to see Mr. Haffler and Mr. Tietjen leaving. Its interesting to see after a by-law change by the council that two department heads are leaving. This seems to be a pattern for Hillsdale in not being able to retain quality employees.

Seeing no other parties wishing to address the council, Mayor Ruocco closed the initial public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS:

[Michael Pizzella – Eagle Scout Project](#)

Michael Pizzella is a Life Scout that is looking to move on to Eagle Scout. He presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Mayor and Council for approval. He will be collecting a variety of items that he will in turn donate to St. Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ. These items will benefit children that are in the hospital in the age range from 8-12 years old. He looked for approval from the Mayor and Council to set up bins throughout the town, like the Borough Hall, Police Department, the Library to collect various items as well as any advertising help through the Borough email and the electronic sign. The Police Chief gave his approval as did the Council.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

[R22054](#) 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 – *Personnel – Administration; Shared Services – DPW*

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 N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) 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 –

X(8) Matters relating to the employment relationship – *Personnel – Administration; Shared Services –*

DPW

___(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 Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilmember Lundy

Ayes: Councilmember DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: None

Mayor Ruocco felt that the closed session could last an hour or so.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:

Motion to reconvene Councilmember DeRosa Second Councilmember Lundy

Ayes: Councilmember Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa

Nays: none

Mayor Ruocco stated that on the agenda was two proposed Special Committees to conduct initial candidate interviews for open positions in DPW Supt and the BA positions, respectively, but at this time, he is not going to proceed with this to reflect the wishes of council.

Mayor Ruocco announces the following proposed change to the Citizens Advisory Committee Fields/Community Center for the year 2022 to replace a member from Access for All who could not serve.

Citizens Advisory Committee Fields/Community Center	Ron Miller (Access for All – replaces Ruta Fiorino)
--	---

Motion to Record: Councilmember Horvath Second: Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Councilmember Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath

Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

[January 4, 2022 Sine Die Council Meeting](#)

[January 4, 2022 Reorganization Meeting](#)

[January 11, 2022 Council Meeting](#)

January 11, 2022 Closed Session Meeting

Motion Councilmember Lundy Second Councilmember DeRosa

Ayes: Councilmember Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar, Lundy

Nays: Councilmember Horvath

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. [Go the Distance for Autism – Glenn Morton. Letter dated January 21, 2022 requesting the ability to travel through the Borough of Hillsdale on Sunday, June 5, 2022.](#)

2. [Letter from the Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department requesting the use of the West Borough Parking Lot April 18, 2022 through April 23, 2022 for their annual carnival.](#)

Motion to approve, receipt and file Councilmember Pizzella Second Councilmember DeRosa
Councilmember DeRosa confirmed that the Chief of Police is good with both of these requests. Chief Francaviglia confirmed that he is good with both events.

Ayes: Council President Trochimiuk, Councilmember DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella

Nays: None

3. [Letter from Department of Public Works Employees supporting the Superintendent](#)

Motion to receipt and file Councilman Horvath Second Council President Trochimiuk

Ayes: Councilmember DeRosa, Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk

Nays: None

Mayor Ruocco shared some Covid News in regards to Hillsdale. Hillsdale has had approximately 1800 cases since the pandemic began, which is about 17% of our residents. There is a trend showing a decline in cases despite the Omicron Virus.

Mayor Ruocco also had a phone conversation with Local Schools Superintendent Robert Lombardy in regards to his timetable for replacing George White School. There are opportunities for the Borough and the Schools to work together. Both he and the mayor agreed on overall goals. Mr. Lombardy is willing to meet with council or any of its committees to explore ideas.

PROFESSIONALS REPORT/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)

Hillsdale Police Department – [January 2022](#)

Chief Robert Francaviglia

Chief Francaviglia stated that he submitted his report and he would also like to wish the Police Captain a Happy Birthday. He also wishes Chris Tietjen, the Borough Administrator and William Haffler, DPW Superintendent well on their new positions.

Borough Engineer Report – [January 2022](#)

Colliers Engineering

Councilman Pizzella asked if our Engineers could get a timetable from PSE&G so we can let our residents know what is going on and when like they do for other towns.

Craig Zimmermann from Colliers stated that yes this is possible. There is a lot of work going on in the town by PSE&G and he has made several calls to various people to coordinate these projects. This is certainly something that they are working on and will make sure that resident are notified of any work that they need to be informed of. They are also willing to take calls from resident to answer any questions that they may have regarding this work. The same goes for any Suez work. Councilman Pizzella also asked that they stay on top of the tree replacement program. Mr. Zimmermann stated that he will look at what was agreed upon and will follow up.

Councilman DeRosa asked that they mitigate anything they can in regards to the slit drains at Centennial Field so that fields can be ready in time for the spring season. Both Craig Zimmermann and Carl O'Brien stated that they will be working on this in the next few weeks with the Borough Administrator.

Councilmember Lundy stated that in regards to the Beechwood Nature Trail it states that the DPW would be taking on some of that work, she believes that they determined that this is not possible, so we will need a long-term plan for this. Craig Zimmermann stated that he believes that this trail is a good candidate for the Bergen County Open Space Grant that opens in April or May submission. They will keep on top of that.

Mayor Ruocco asked about the statement in their report regarding stream debris removal and that this program needs the Borough to sponsor this program and how this works. He asked that they elaborate more on this. Craig Zimmermann responded that the EWP, Emergency Watershed Protection Plan respond to areas in immediate need, especially those areas that were affected by Tropical Storm Ida, and Nor'easters.

The Borough would need to sponsor this program through an application and the deadline for this may have already passed on this. In other Boroughs that he works with he met with members from the EWP and they unfortunately were unable to find any eligible activity worth funding. Most areas that he knew of were also not eligible. It seems that if there is not an immediate issue where it is impacting life, there may not be assistance. He does not see anything like this in Hillsdale, so he does not feel that this is worth pursuing at this time. This is the only source available right now through the EWP. There was assistance through FEMA, however he believes that this closed about 2 weeks ago. Mayor Ruocco asked that he keep the Borough Administrator and him advised of any opportunities that may come about.

Mayor Ruocco asked about the Salt Shed relocation to the West Lot. Borough Administrator Tietjen stated that in speaking with the engineer and the previous engineer, to put the DPW salt shed back where it was is inappropriate as well as the permits that would be required from NJDEP, to put it back into a flood zone. The west lot was identified as an alternate location.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Ruocco stated that there are a number of discussion items that have been withdrawn. Councilmember Lundy stated that she will defer her Use of Social Media Discussion until next week.

Borough Administrator Chris Tietjen stated that there has been a request to reinstitute senior activities as well as the senior van. In response, he would like to look to the council for their direction to reinstitute these activities as well as open the building and resume in person meetings. The Borough Clerk was able to rectify the issue with the public access channels and the meetings will continue to be posted via YouTube as it has been previously. The Borough Clerk hopes to have the hybrid format in place by April/May the latest.

There is a full consensus from the council to reinstate the van and senior activities as well as to reopen the building and resume in person meetings. The Borough Administrator will reinstate the van and senior activities

as of February 7, 2022 and he will reopen Borough Hall as of March 1 and in person meetings may resume in March as well. This will include all committees and commission as well to resume in person meetings at their discretion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman - Anthony DeRosa

Reported on the Regional and Local Board of Ed. The Regional Board is still searching for a new Superintendent. They discussed training on their purchasing manual as part of their ongoing training. The Local BOE recognized three individuals for their 25 years of service. They will be purchasing a new boiler for Meadowbrook School and new windows for Smith School. They are still waiting on results from surveys and environmental tests regarding the possible replacement of the George White School.

The Ambulance Service had their monthly meeting and is continuing to explore the merging services for a Tri-Boro type of service. The Ambulance Committee did not meet.

The Recreation Committee is meeting Thursday. The Borough did receive notice that we were awarded the grant for McSpirit Park in the amount of \$32,000.

The Steering Committee for Community Center/Fields met last week without the Planner to discuss inviting members of the citizens advisory committee to hear their input and give them some preliminary reports. Again, no decisions will be made without the input of residents.

Councilman Escobar asked Councilman DeRosa that if DMR stated that Centennial is the only field that can be turfed, what else is there to do. Councilman DeRosa stated that he wants to present it to the residents and make sure that this is what they want to invest in. If there is a consensus on the fields and the cost is coming in as what was anticipated at approximately 3 million dollars, then why can't we move ahead with the fields. Councilman DeRosa said he agrees on that approach after the discussion is had at their next meeting. Councilman Horvath stated that the reason they are having the meeting with the Steering Committee is to see if they want to spend that kind of money now or maybe at a later time, so we want their input. Mayor Ruocco added that he doesn't believe that a decision was made as to whether or not we were going to do artificial turf or natural turf. Councilman DeRosa stated that natural turf would not solve the issue, it would be the same as it is now and will not solve the drainage issue like artificial turf would. We can artificially turf over the slit drains that were done and they would stay intact. This is why it was done this way.

Mayor Ruocco stated that the Steering Committee, which is composed of council members and the Borough Administrator and Recreation Director was designed to come to the full council with the wants and needs for a community center and field improvements after they talk to the advisory committee and DMR, etc. The fields present a question of narrower focus. There was a consensus that you needed to artificially turf a field. The focus is on Centennial but still raises issues, but it doesn't directly affect the turfing issue. Councilmember Lundy has also come up with some ideas to even lessen the cost. She has spoken to our current engineer and they find that the cost that was given for the fields is overstated. She has discovered that there are vendors out there that think this is a viable project and has referred them to the Borough Administrator and the engineers. The Borough Administrator has sent an email to the Borough Engineer with vendor information for them to contact. Councilman Horvath added that he was not made aware of what was going on and he is a part of the Steering Committee for Fields/Community Center

Mayor Ruocco asked that all committees respect the membership of each committee and keep them informed.

Councilmember Lundy stated that she is constantly being contacted by vendors, especially after attending the NJLM. She spoke with one vendor in particular and verified that company and sent that information over to the Borough Administrator. Again, Mayor Ruocco reminded that it is wise for committees to keep all members informed.

Councilman - John Escobar

He will refer to the Police chiefs report for the Police Committee. OEM reported that we should be getting \$117,000 from FEMA from Hurricane Isaiiah and possibly more to come. They are continuing to work with FEMA in regards to Hurricane IDA. There needs to be a discussion as to the relocation of the DPW to start the application with FEMA to fund the relocation.

The Police Committee met on Friday to interview candidates for a new patrolman.

Chief Francaviglia stated that including the Police Committee in the interview process started last year.

In regards to the Mayors question about the Officer on Loan Program, the Borough Administrator met with the Police Chief late last week and he will have a confidential report for the council at the next meeting because it concerns personnel. The Administrator added that in the past three weeks money has been rolled into the borough and he feels that the program is successful as of this date.

The Police Chief has made a recommendation to the Borough Administrator in the selection process of a new patrolman and could be presented to council in the month of March after background checks and procedural matters have been completed.

Councilman – Zoltan Horvath

The First Quarter Fire Dept Meeting was on January 24th where they discussed protocols and some history on the department.

The Historic Preservation Committee met on January 26th where various plans were discussed for 2022 & 2023, more specifically where plans were discussed to have a town wide 100 year celebration with a 1920's theme. They also discussed various historic landmarks that are in need of being restored and the general worn look of Hillsdale.

The Planning Board extended their Master Plan survey an additional week to give residents more time to respond.

The American Legion has asked to announce the passing of one of their long standing members Fred Grimaldi.

Councilwoman - Abby Lundy

On Friday, the Finance Committee met along with Department Heads and the CMFO to conduct budget meetings. The Borough and the CMFO will take a look at the budget and report back to the finance committee. The following day, she met with the Borough Administrator and Mayor to give a status report. There will most likely be a budget presentation at the second meeting in March, the Borough Administrator is just waiting for the Auditor to complete the Annual Financial Statement and then will prepare a draft budget for either his or his predecessors' consideration.

Regardless, we have to wait for the Annual Financial Statement that will give us our revenue numbers. Since NJ is a balanced budget state, he cannot do appropriations until he has revenues so he would advise the council to have someone in place to work with the CMFO to make a recommendation on the amount to be raised by taxes. There is also the option to fall back on the Borough Auditor.

In response to the Mayor's question about having Budget meetings in person, Councilmember Lundy replied that due to time constraints it didn't work. They started at 10:00 and went all the way passed 3:00. There are often personnel issues discussed and then we would have to go in and out of closed sessions. There are a lot of issues and it is not ideal to put the department heads on the spot in a preliminary budget. The public has a lot of

access to the budget prior to the adoption and ample time to ask any questions. Mayor Ruocco asked if she could observe how other towns that do hold their budget meetings in public manage the process and report back to council maybe sometime in the summer. She agreed.

Councilman – Frank Pizzella

He encourages everyone to watch the short video from Access for All that shows how to create more friendly environments. The link is on the Access for All Facebook page. He will send the link to the Borough Clerk to post on the town website. He thanked Ron Miller for his assistance on this video. He will report on more at the next meeting.

Council President – Janetta Trochimiuk

This Friday is the last day for the Superintendent. We have 2 resolutions on for tonight for his temporary replacement and then a temporary Foreman replacement. She would like to assure the residents that there will not be any interruption of services due to this change of personnel.

She is meeting tomorrow with the Library Director to take a tour to get a firsthand look at the library and find out what is going on at the library and she will report back at the next meeting.

Mayor Ruocco sent a letter to the GRC asking for their opinion in regards to a practice that the Borough follows when we create our public meeting agendas. This letter is presently under review with the GRC. He would like his letter and any response that he might get, posted to our website under the mayor's spotlight. Borough Clerk, Denise Kohan reminded the mayor that this topic was previously discussed and it was agreed that this letter should not be posted to the website and she will defer to the Borough Labor Attorney, Ray Wiss.

Ray Wiss stated that this has been thoroughly discussed previously and that this is in the purview of the clerk's discretion. She is not under any legal obligation and it is in her prerogative as the clerk and is entitled to that discretion. Mayor Ruocco understands that the clerk uses a certain standard for the agenda as many other clerks use and its not unusual. He views the letter as one thing and our policy as another. Regardless of whether our policy is correct, it is a letter that he wrote looking for guidance from the GRC and that letter like all his other letters should be posted in the mayor's spotlight.

Borough Attorney Madaio reminded him that in a previous conversation between Ray Wiss, the Mayor and himself, the matter had been discussed and it was probably agreed upon that it would not be appropriate for publication. This can be discussed in closed, or at another time, unless there is an insistence to discuss it now. Ray Wiss added that there may have been aspects of the letter that touched on performance and nobody wanted to create an HR issue. There is a concern on how this letter could be interpreted. Borough Clerk Denise Kohan responded that she has an issue with this conversation.

Councilman Pizzella moved to table this conversation and called point of order and asked for a second, which was given by Councilmember Lundy. Mayor Ruocco will follow up with the attorneys tomorrow.

RESOLUTIONS:(Consent Agenda): R22047 through R22053:

[R22047](#) Resolution Appointing Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer to the Hillsdale Police Department for the 2022 School Year – Linda McNulty

WHEREAS, On July 12, 2017 the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale adopted an Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 63 of the Borough Code to revise the Table of Organization of the Police Department to add the position of Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of appointing Linda McNulty as a Class III Officer for the 2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, Linda McNulty is desirous of accepting the position; and

WHEREAS, all funding is subject to reimbursement from the Hillsdale Board of Education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Linda McNulty, is hereby appointed as Class III Officer of the Hillsdale Police Department at an hourly rate of \$34.93 per hour covering the 2022 school year.

[R22048](#) Resolution Authorizing Redemption & Premium - 86 Ruckman Avenue

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector held a Tax Sale on October 6, 2021, and at the sale a lien was sold on Block 2201, Lot 36, also known as 86 Ruckman Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642 for 2020 Delinquent Taxes and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #20-00006 was sold to Evolve Bank & Trust for 0% redemption fee and a \$100,000.00 premium and,

WHEREAS, Diane Marie Barbera (Slattery), 86 Ruckman Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642 has effected redemption of Certificate No. 20-00006 in the amount of \$ 31,105.96.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$ 31,105.96 payable to Evolve Bank & Trust, 6070 Poplar Ave., Suite 200, Memphis, TN 38118 for the redemption of this certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Premium) to the aforementioned lienholder.

[R22049](#) Retention of Special Counsel – Pascack Valley High School Withdrawal

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale awarded a contract to Victoria Flynn of the Law Offices of Hill Wallack, LLP. on January 4, 2022 for Special Counsel for the Pascack Valley Regional High School Withdrawal as a Non-Fair and Open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 or 20.5; and;

WHEREAS, Victoria Flynn of the Law Offices of Hill Wallack, LLP. was the attorney for the Borough of Hillsdale for hearings, meetings, court appearances and all necessary related legal services but she has since left the firm of Hill Wallack, LLP; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Flynn has opened her own firm, Law Offices of Victoria A. Flynn located at 15 Grandview Drive, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale would like to retain Victoria Flynn and her new firm for hearings, meetings, court appearances and all necessary related legal services under her new firm; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute such a contract with the Law Offices of Victoria Flynn as well as sign the Client Authorization Form to transfer any records, files and property in the possession of Hill Wallack to Ms. Flynn at the rate of \$175.00 per hour; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Flynn has completed and submitted a “Contribution Statement by Professional Business Entity” as required by Hillsdale Borough Ordinance No. 04-14, entitled, “An Ordinance Establishing a Borough Policy for the Awarding of Public Professional Service Contracts”; and Ordinance No. 11-19 “Amending Chapter 12, Contracts, Public Professional Service and Chapter 305, Contribution Disclosure Statements”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Victoria Flynn of the firm Law Offices of Victoria A. Flynn located at 15 Grandview Drive, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733 be retained as Special Counsel – Pascack Valley Regional High School Withdrawal for the Borough of Hillsdale for the hearings, meetings, court appearances and all necessary related legal services effective January 1, 2022, up through the Borough Reorganization Meeting in 2023.

[R22050](#) Resolution to Authorize the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for Communications Site Lease

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to rent a portion of the property located at 371 Washington Avenue, as shown as Block 1107 Lot 19 in the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the lease is for the placement of wireless telecommunications antennas on the existing tower along with related ground equipment located on a portion of the property located at 371 Washington Avenue, Block 1107 Lot 19; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough Clerk is duly authorized to advertise for such bids.

[R22051](#) Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into and Sign an Agreement for the 2021 Bergen County Open Space, recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund – Beechwood Park Improvements

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale wish to enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract (“Contract”) with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$56,250.00 matching grant award from the 2021 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”) for the municipal park project entitled Beechwood Park Improvements, located on Hillsdale and Everdell Avenue, on the tax maps of the Block 1906 Lot 1;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or the Borough Administrator/Interim Borough Administrator to be a signatory to the aforesaid Contract; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge that, in general, the use of this Trust Fund grant towards this approved park project must be completed by or about December 15, 2023; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant will be disbursed to the municipality as a reimbursement upon submittal of certified Trust Fund payment and project completion documents and municipal vouchers, invoices, proofs of payment, and other such documents as may be required by the County in accordance with the Trust Fund’s requirements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty (50) percent of the eligible construction costs incurred (not to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund’s requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award’s unexpended balance, should there be a balance.

[R22052](#) Resolution Appointing Barry Peterson as Acting Superintendent

WHEREAS, Barry Peterson (“Employee”) is currently employed by the Borough of Hillsdale (“Employer”) as Forman in the Hillsdale Department of Public Works (“DPW”); and

WHEREAS, as of February 5, 2022 there will exist a temporary vacancy in the position of DPW Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, effective on such date Employee has been assigned to the position of Acting Superintendent and has consented to such assignment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XXVI of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Employer and Teamsters Local 125, Employee is entitled to receive a pay differential for such time as he serves in the position of Acting Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Employee, commencing on February 5, 2022, and continuing for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days shall serve in position of Acting Superintendent of the DPW, and shall be paid at a salary rate of \$102,000.00 per year, prorated for such periods as he may serve in the position of Acting Superintendent of the DPW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the Borough Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Labor Attorney are authorized to take all appropriate actions so as to implement this Resolution.

[R22053](#) Resolution Appointing Frank Scarpati as Acting Foreman

WHEREAS, Frank Scarpati (“Employee”) is currently employed by the Borough of Hillsdale (“Employer”) in the Hillsdale Department of Public Works (“DPW”); and

WHEREAS, as of February 5, 2022 there will exist a temporary vacancy in the position of DPW Foreman, based upon the assignment of Barry Peterson to the position of Acting DPW Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, Employee has been assigned to the position of Acting Foreman and has consented to such assignment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XXVI of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Employer and Teamsters Local 125, Employee is entitled to receive a pay differential for such time as he serves in the position of Acting Foreman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that Employee, commencing on February 5, 2022, and continuing for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days shall serve in position of Acting Foreman of the DPW, and shall be paid at a salary rate of \$89,444.67 per year, prorated for such periods as he may serve in the position of Acting Foreman of the DPW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the Borough Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Labor Attorney are authorized to take all appropriate actions so as to implement this Resolution.

Motion Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilman DeRosa

Ayes: Councilmember Escobar, Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa

Nays: none

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Ruocco opened the second public comment portion of the meeting. Seeing no one, he closed the second public comment portion.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Mayor Ruocco wishes everyone in the Borough a happy Lunar New Year. He would like to thank Billy Haffler for his years of service as the DPW Superintendent and the effectiveness of the Borough's leaf and snow removal programs He wishes him the best of luck going forward in his new position.

He also would like to thank all those residents and other elected officials in other towns that have expressed to him their amazement over the unprecedented actions of this councils attempt to stifle the flow of information to the mayor.

The borough has experienced two important resignations in the past 10 days. We have had 5 BAs in 8 years and we have had 7 CFO's in 8 years and we are looking for our 6th DPW Superintendent in 9 years. He has seen property taxes raised without proper justification. He lamented the actions of Council without it consulting residents, approving agreements at Council meetings without letting the public see them in the agenda, and for members misrepresenting costs of projects. We have a form of government that is "weak mayor and a strong council". Only the council can right the ship.

Councilman Escobar had no comment.

Councilman DeRosa had no comment.

Councilmember Lundy stated that there has been a lot of back and forth in the press. She too has heard from residents and people from other towns and while they agree with what the mayor said, they are not putting it on the governing body they are putting it on the reasons why the council did what they did.

In the latest edition of the Pascack Press the Mayor stated that she tried to curb the mayor's authority by eluding his authority to sign contracts. It was stated by the mayor that he could have been personally held liable for that contract and that is why he wouldn't sign it. She stated that it is his job to sign contracts. She wanted to remove him from his job because he wouldn't sign the contract.

Councilman Pizzella thanked everyone for being so nice to his son Michael. He would like to congratulate him on his presentation and he makes them all proud.

There are many positive things that are going on in this town. We removed a garbage dump; we are working on redevelopment. We are looking at revitalizing this town. We saved the pool from closing. It's time to work together and focus on the positive.

Council President Trochimiuk thanked Mr. Haffler for almost four years of service to Hillsdale and his support for his staff. She wishes nothing but the best for him in his new position.

Councilman Horvath said ditto on the platitudes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn Council President Trochimiuk Second Councilman DeRosa

Ayes: Council Members Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Council President Trochimiuk, DeRosa, Escobar

Nays: None

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 2022 7:00 pm via ZOOM.**

Denise Kohan, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED