

Mayor Sheinfield opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance then called the meeting to order by reading the Open Public Meeting Statement.

This is a Special Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024. 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 the roll call - Council President Escobar (entered after roll call), Council Members Fox, Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Mayor Sheinfield – all were in attendance with the Borough Administrator Mike Ghassali, Borough Clerk Denise Kohan, and Borough Attorney Mark Madaio.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Time limited – 3 minutes, new topics only, one topic per speaker):  
Mayor Sheinfield opened the Public Comment Period.

Rick Savino- Hillsdale

Revisited the subject of the Town Negotiating Committee, specifically regarding union negotiations. He feels that Councilman Fox should recuse himself from the Negotiation Committee to avoid the appearance of impropriety as he is a member of a local PBA.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Sheinfield closed the Public Comment period.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:**

[24239](#) 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 – *Matters involving prospective public officer*

**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 –

X(8) Matters relating to the employment relationship – *Matters involving prospective public officer*

\_\_\_(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 Ruocco Second Trochimiuk

All in favor: Council President Escobar, Councilmember Fox, Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk

**RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:**

Motion Escobar Second Trochimiuk

All in favor: Councilmember Fox, Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Council President Escobar

Mayor Sheinfield asked for a name to be presented to fill the vacant Council Seat. Councilmember Trochimiuk nominated Robert Colletti and this was seconded by Councilman Osso. Mayor Sheinfield looked for any other names to be nominated and there were none. Borough Clerk Kohan took a roll call vote on the nomination of Robert Colletti filling the vacant council seat:

Ayes: Councilmember Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Council President Escobar, Fox

Nays: none

Mayor Sheinfield congratulated Mr. Colletti on filling the vacant seat on council.

**COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:**

Councilman Ruocco congratulated Robert Colletti and offered his assistance in anyway.

He added that he concurs with the comments made by Rick Savino during the Public Comment Period regarding a person who is part of the PBA, sitting on the Negotiation Committee that deals with the PBA.

He realizes that Councilman Fox has an advisory opinion letter from the DCA, but no one on the M&C has seen it. He would like to view this letter to understand the state's rationale. He has tried to OPRA this letter from the DCA Commissioners Office, the Office of Ethics, and the DLGS, but was unsuccessful.

In closing he wished everyone a happy Labor Day.

Seeing no one else wishing to comment, Mayor Sheinfield looked for a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn Trochimiuk Second Escobar

All in favor: Councilmember Osso, Ruocco, Trochimiuk, Council President Escobar, Fox

Denise Kohan, Municipal Clerk

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APPROVED AS PRESENTED