

**ALPINE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 23, 2020 @ 7:30 P.M.
(This meeting was recorded in its entirety).**

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Council, Borough of Alpine, convened for this Regular Meeting on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. The Public Announcement was read as follows: *In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law, and the Governor's Emergency Declaration the notice of this regular meeting held telephonically of the Alpine Mayor and Council held Monday, November 23, 2020 has met the requirements of the law by being published in The Record, posted continuously on the bulletin board of the lobby of the Borough Hall and doors of the public meeting room and a copy filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.*

ROLL CALL

Paul Tomasko, Mayor	Present	Vicki Frankel, Council President	Present
Michael Cacouris, Councilman	Present	Arthur Frankel, Councilman	Present
Gayle Gerstein, Councilwoman	@7:53pm	John Halbreich, Councilman	Present
Laurence Shadek, Councilman	Present		

Staff Attending: Borough Attorney Russell Huntington, Paul Azzolina on behalf of Borough Engineer Perry Frenzel, Municipal Clerk Stephanie Wehmann

PUBLIC COMMENTS No comments.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE A copy is on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

ConnectOne Current Operating Acct \$4,783,599.88

Resolution #177:11'2020: Approval of Bills and Claims

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the bills and claims, a copy of which are appended.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein, **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution #178:11'2020: Return of Bonds and Escrow

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the return of the following bonds and escrow subject to review and approval by the Borough Engineer.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
74/10	Shabetayev, Lisa	Performance bond	\$47,236.44
		Revegetation Bond	5,000.00
		Engineering Escrow	634.50
		Tree Bond	8,000.00
			TOTAL: \$60,870.94
48/2	Mirzo, Dadri	Septic Bond	\$10,000.00
		Engineering Escrow	494.50
			TOTAL: \$10,494.50

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein, **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution #179:11'2020: Refund/Credit Of: 2018 Tax Overpayment Due To State Tax Court Judgment:

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020

WHEREAS, a State Tax Court Judgment was granted on September 18, 2020 from the Tax Court of New Jersey reducing the assessment on the following:

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Original Assessment</u>	<u>Reduced Assessment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Refund/Credit</u>
120	4.01	Lin, Jennifer	\$1,877,800.00	\$1,450,000.00	2018	\$3,319.73

WHEREAS, the reduction in assessment was not recorded in time for the 2018 assessment records for the above referenced property and was billed at the higher assessed value for 2018, resulting in an overbilling, and

WHEREAS, an overpayment was made for the tax year listed above and therefore should be refunded to the owner, or applied to any property tax delinquency that may be existing on the date of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Borough Treasurer to issue a refund for the tax overpayment, or apply the overpayment to any delinquency that may exist on the subject property as of the date of this resolution,

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #180:11'2020: Authorizing the Transfer of 2020 Budget Appropriations (Transfer #1)

OFFERED BY: Councilman Cacouris **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020

WHEREAS, title 40A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides that should it become necessary during the last two months of the fiscal year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount claimed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may by Resolution setting forth the facts (adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof), transfer the amount of such excess of those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpine, the Borough Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2020 Budget Appropriations.

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Public Employees Retirement System	0-01-36-471-000	\$174.23
Police & Fire Retirement System	0-01-36-475-000	\$195.86
Legal Services	0-01-20-155-020	\$370.09

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Councilman Cacouris reports tax collections are proceeding as usual. At this time, we are not experiencing any deficits or delays as a result of the pandemic.

Tax Assessor's Report. Report on file.

MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor Tomasko highlighted:

- Alpine has been awarded a NJDOT Grant for the fourth year in a row. The 2021 award is for the purpose of resurfacing of Marie Major Drive \$153,469.00. The Municipal Aide is funded by the increase in gasoline taxes enacted under former Governor Christie.
- Bond Anticipation (short term) Note renewed at an interest cost \$22,259 less than last year. Principal also reduced. We are making progress at reducing debt.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration Department No report.

Building Department Councilman Halbreich noted 53 scheduled inspections, 1 fence permit, 4 tree permits, 2 soil moving applications, 6 zoning review applications. Balance of report is on file in the Clerk's office.

Department of Public Works Councilman Frankel noted on October 30 a very large tree fell across Church Street and efficiently removed so utilities could be repaired. Mayor Tomasko added his commendation. The balance of the report is on file.

Fire Department They have 3 applications for membership for consideration:

Approval of Fire Department Membership Applications

Resolution #181:11'2020: Approving Firefighter: Marc Amirsaleh

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Halbreich

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the application for **Marc Amirsaleh** for Membership as a Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #182:11'2020: Approving Junior Firefighter: Alex Chung

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Halbreich

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the application for **Alex Chung** for Membership as a Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution #183:11'2020: Approving Junior Firefighter: Daniel Schoeneborn

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Halbreich

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the application for **Daniel Schoeneborn** for Membership as a Junior Firefighter in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Police Department Councilwoman Frankel advised 10 summonses issued for the month, 10 motor vehicle accidents with 3 injuries and the rest of the report is on file.

Resolution #184:11'2020: Accepting the Reports of the Standing Committees

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Halbreich

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to accept the reports of the Standing Committees.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON'S REPORT Councilman Shadek advised the school is following protocols for virtual and/or in school learning relative to COVID-19 test results.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S REPORT Defer to Executive Session

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT Mr. Azzolina read Mr. Frenzel's report into the record:

- 2020 Riverside Cooperative Road Program complete
- Closter Dock Road / Rt 9W Intersection – preliminary drawings sent to County for review. Mayor Tomasko noted any efforts to expedite would be most appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS Resolutions #185:11'2020 - #187:11'2020

1a. Resolution #185:11'2020: Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting October 28, 2020

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Cacouris

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting October 28, 2020

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shaddek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

1b. Resolution #186:11'2020: Approval of Minutes Executive Session October 28, 2020

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Cacouris

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Monday, November 23, 2020 to approve the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting September 23, 2020.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shaddek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

2. Resolution #187:11'2020 Reaffirm Support for NJDOT Route 9W Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Cacouris

at this regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Monday, November 23, 2020

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Department of Transportation is in the Concept Development phase of design regarding Route 9W Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Improvements.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpine is a municipality with a long stretch of mileage along Route 9W which traverses the Borough; and

WHEREAS, by resolution #040:1'2015 previously adopted on January 28, 2015, the Alpine Mayor & Council indicated initial support for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine reaffirm support of the goals and objectives of the Route 9W, Palisades Ave to New York Stateline Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Anthony Sytko, Regional Coordinator, Office of Community Relations, NJDOT, PO Box 600 Trenton, NJ 08625-0600.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shaddek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

B) Governing Body Acknowledgment of Best Practices Inventory

The best practices inventory was certified and submitted on November 4, 2020 prior to the November 5 deadline. Mayor Tomasko met with Borough officials to review the questions and responses prior to submission. This year's inventory was comprised of 60 questions including 31 unscored survey questions. At the time of submission there was an inventory score of 24 affirmative out of 29 questions. This score should result in no penalty or withholding of property tax relief and energy tax relief based on the rubric provided in Public Finance Notice 20-20. Entire report is on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution#188:11'2020: Executive Session A Resolution providing 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.

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Frankel
at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Monday, November 23, 2020

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine 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 Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b subsection designated below:

(b)(7) Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege: Affordable Housing

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, assembled in public session on Monday, November 23, 2020, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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.

Vote: Ayes: V. Frankel, Cacouris, A. Frankel, Halbreich, Shadek **Absent:** Gerstein

MOTION APPROVED

Mayor and Council convened the Executive Session at 7:44 PM, reconvened in public session at 8:32 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Shadek and approved by all to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday November 23, 2020 at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wehmann, Municipal Clerk