

BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG
GOVERNING BODY VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met. Any contracts awarded require the contractor to comply with N.J.S.A.10:5-31 et.seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27. Also, in the event of a fire and pursuant to the N.J. Uniform Fire Code, members of the audience are requested to take notice of the exits at the front and rear of the Council Chambers as well as in the main hallway.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Lowande

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lowande
Council President Czarneski
Council Member Ludas
Council Member Rampacek - ***ABSENT***
Council Member Rutsky
Council Member Shaughnessy
Council Member Sussman - ***ABSENT***
Administrator Frueh - ***ABSENT***
Borough Attorney – Raffetto

Vacation of Alleyway Request - Mr. Cardile was not on the Zoom meeting at the time the request came up. We will hear him at the end of the meeting.

MOTION TO OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Ludas
Seconded By: Rutsky

Randy Dey – 9 Woodland Road-Mr. Dey was following up on the last council meeting regarding the permits for having an outdoor fire. Mayor Lowande explained we have an Ordinance on tonight’s agenda that will be heard.

MOTION TO CLOSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Ludas
Seconded By: Shaughnessy

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY: Public Hearing Oct. 21, 2020

ORDINANCE #11-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XII, ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION,” OF THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG,” IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION THEREOF, TO BE KNOWN AS SECTION 12-5, ENTITLED “BURNING, OUTDOOR”

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg recognize that many residents enjoy relaxing by a recreational fire that is contained within a chiminea, outdoor fireplace or outdoor fire pit (as defined in this Ordinance) that is located upon residential property; however, the Mayor and Council also find that recreational fires and burning of combustible materials in a residential setting may pose a serious hazard to the public health, safety, and comfort, and the general welfare and quality of life of the residents of the Borough of Jamesburg; and

WHEREAS, the public has a right to and should be ensured of an environment free from noxious fumes and the threat of fire; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Jamesburg to prevent the danger of fire from open burning which is a detriment to the public health, safety, comfort, general welfare and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance seeks to balance the respective interests of quiet enjoyment of recreational fire activities on private property with that of securing and promoting public health, safety, and comfort, and the general welfare and quality of life of the residents of the Borough of Jamesburg; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough believe that the within Ordinance will further the health, safety and welfare of the Borough and its residents, and is consistent with the authority granted to enact Ordinances in furtherance of the general welfare pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the “Code of the Borough of Jamesburg” is hereby amended and supplemented in order to establish a new Section thereof to be known as Section 12-5, entitled “Burning, Outdoor,” as follows:

CHAPTER XII FIRE PREVENTION

12-5 BURNING, OUTDOOR.

a. *Purpose.*

1. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg recognize that many residents enjoy relaxing by a recreational fire that is contained within a chiminea, outdoor fireplace or outdoor fire pit (as defined in this Ordinance) that is located upon residential property; however, the Mayor and Council also find that recreational fires and burning of combustible materials in a residential setting may pose a serious hazard to the public health, safety, and comfort, and the general welfare and quality of life of the residents of the Borough of Jamesburg. The public has a right to and should be ensured of an environment free from noxious fumes and the threat of fire. It is the policy of the Borough of Jamesburg to prevent the danger of fire from open burning which is a detriment to the public health, safety, comfort, general welfare and quality of life.
2. This Ordinance seeks to balance the respective interests of quiet enjoyment of recreational fire activities on private property with that of securing and promoting public health, safety, and comfort, and the general welfare and quality of life of the residents of the Borough of Jamesburg.

b. *Applicability.*

1. This section applies to all outdoor burning and open burning within the Borough of Jamesburg.
2. This section shall not apply to grilling or cooking food using charcoal, wood, propane or natural gas in cooking or grilling appliances.
3. This section does not apply to burning for the purpose of generating heat in a stove, furnace, fireplace or other heating device within a building used for human or animal habitation.
3. This section does not apply to the use of propane, acetylene, natural gas, gasoline or kerosene in a device intended for heating, construction or maintenance activities.

c. *Definitions.* For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Chiminea; outdoor fireplace; outdoor fire pit* shall mean either of the following:
 - (a) a non-pre-made outdoor structure built according to an individual's wishes, encompassing a wide variety of styles and functions, from a traditional campfire pit to more elaborate constructions of materials such as stone and concrete, intended to contain an open fire. These terms shall also include patio warmers or other portable wood-burning devices used for outdoor recreation and/or heating; or

- (b) a pre-manufactured structure commercially sold for outdoor burning, often portable, and commonly made of metal and used for wood burning.
 - 2. *Firewood* shall mean trunks and branches of trees and bushes, but does not include leaves, needles, vines or brush smaller than two inches in diameter.
 - 3. *Nuisance* shall mean any odor, emission, or event that prevents the reasonable use and enjoyment of one's property.
 - 4. The terms *Open burning* and *open fire* shall mean any fire from which the products of combustion are emitted directly into the open air, and are not by design directed through a stack, chimney or other container designed for recreational fires.
 - 5. *Recreational fire* shall mean an outdoor fire where seasoned wood of approved dimensions is burned for entertainment.
 - 6. *Treated lumber* shall mean dry wood which has been milled and dried and has been treated or combined with any petroleum product, glue, chemical, preservative, adhesive stain, paint or other substance.
 - 7. *Untreated lumber* shall mean dry wood which has been milled and dried but which has not been treated or combined with any petroleum product, glue, chemical, preservative, adhesive stain, pain or other substance.
- d. *Recreational Fire Regulations.*
- 1. Recreational fires in approved containers (as set forth herein) shall be allowed without a permit at one- and two-family owner-occupied homes, duplexes and townhomes, subject to the regulations contained herein.
 - 2. Fires shall be limited to a maximum three feet (3') in diameter and two feet (2') in height, and must be contained in a noncombustible chiminea, outdoor fireplace, fire pit or other method approved by the Fire Official or his/her designee.
 - 3. Fires must be kept in the rear yard at least fifteen feet (15') from any structure or combustible exterior wall.
 - 4. Fires must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, or garden hose, shall be available for immediate utilization.
 - 5. The burning of yard waste, leaves, brush, vines, evergreen needles, branches smaller than two inches in diameter, treated or untreated lumber, garbage, paper

products or anything other than firewood as set forth herein is prohibited, except that kindling may be used to start a fire.

6. All recreational fires as set forth herein shall be prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
7. The Borough's Fire Official or his/her designee, a Borough police officer, or the Borough Code Enforcement Officer may order any open fire, or use of a chiminea, outdoor fireplace or outdoor fire pit which creates a nuisance, to be extinguished.

e. *Enforcement; violations and penalties.*

1. This section shall be administered by the Borough's Fire Official, the Borough's Police Department, and the Borough's Code Enforcement Office.
2. Any person, firm or corporation, violating any of the provisions of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation.
 - (a) A fine of no more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) shall be levied for a first offense;
 - (b) A fine of no more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) shall be levied for a second offense; and
 - (c) A fine of no more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be levied for any subsequent offenses.

BE IT FUTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, subsection or part of this Ordinance is adjudged by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

BE IT FUTHER ORDAINED, that the remaining portions of Chapter XII, entitled "Fire Prevention," shall remain in full force and effect except as modified hereunder. All parts and provisions of any Ordinance which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

BE IT FUTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication as provided by law.

RECORD OF VOTE

FIRST READING DATE: September 16, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION TO INTRODUCE	2nd	VOTE
Council Member Ludas	X		X
Council Member Rampacek			
Council Member Rutsky			X
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X
Council Member Sussman			
Council President Czarneski			X
Mayor Lowande			

DATE PUBLISHED: September 25, 2020

DATE PUBLIC HEARING HELD: October 21, 2020

DATE SECOND READING HELD: October 21, 2020

- Mayor Lowande explained the guidelines of the Ordinance. Councilmember Rutsky had a question regarding the word “nuisance” in the Ordinance. Borough Attorney Fred Raffetto explained the definition. Councilmember Rutsky was ok with his explanation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed on tonight’s Consent Agenda are to be considered as one vote by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. Any resolutions listed on the agenda with ** next to their respective number are to be considered as part of the Consent Agenda. There will be no discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #098-09-16-20**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES BE AND ARE HEREBY ACCEPTED AND FILED:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AUGUST 19, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #099-09-16-20**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING MONTHLY REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg that the following reports be and are hereby received and filed:

Investment Report	August 2020
Finance Report	August 2020
Report of the Tax Collector	August 2020
Report of the Sewer Administrator	August 2020

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #100-09-16-20**

APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, The Chief Financial Officer has certified and submitted a consolidated bill list for the payment of claims; and

WHEREAS, all vouchers listed herewith have been encumbered and sufficient funds are available for payment; and

WHEREAS, the required signatures of the Department Head or the Committee Chair, the Finance Chairperson, the Vendor, and the Chief Financial Officer, have all been obtained on each voucher on the attached list.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, that the voucher list submitted is hereby approved for payment in the total amount of \$747,926.55.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #101-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR JAMESBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by the Jamesburg Volunteer Fire Department for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-31-010-001 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X

Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #102-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR AAYUSHI, INC. (VILLAGE LIQUOR)

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Aayushi, Inc. for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-44-006-007 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #103-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS #2180

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks #2180 for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-31-008-002 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #104-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR DOMENICO MUSSO

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Domenico Musso, for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-33-005-009 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
----------------	--------	-----	------	------	---------	--------

Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #105-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR KARAN PURVA INC

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Karan Purva Inc., for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-44-001-003 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #106-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR PARKSIDE TAVERN INC.

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Parkside Tavern Inc. for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-33-004-001 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

RESOLUTION #107-09-16-20**

APPROVING LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR TALKHOUSE INC DBA VINE RESTAURANT

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted, with the proper documentation as required by the New Jersey State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, by Talkhouse Inc. DBA Vine Restaurant for the renewal of a Liquor License #1208-33-003-010 for the 2020-2021 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has reviewed said application and has deemed it to be complete; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding fees were submitted with the applications for renewal of the aforementioned license:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Jamesburg, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that approval be and is hereby granted for the renewal of the above referenced Liquor License.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #108-09-16-20

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2019 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee of the Borough of Jamesburg, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

COUNCIL MEMBER	MOTION	2nd	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Ludas	X		X			
Council Member Rampacek						X
Council Member Rutsky			X			
Council Member Shaughnessy		X	X			
Council Member Sussman						X
Council President Czarneski			X			
Mayor Lowande						

COUNCILMATIC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council Member Rampacek

Councilmember Rampack was absent. No report.

- EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Council Member Shaughnessy

Councilmember Shaughnessy reported Jamesburg Public Schools' 2020 - 2021 school year is underway. Students returned virtually, and this year's virtual learning is an improvement over last year in terms of quality and comprehensiveness.

Jamesburg Public Schools' 2020 - 2021 school year is underway. Students returned virtually, and this year's virtual learning is an improvement over last year in terms of quality and comprehensiveness.

There have been problems. The district has increased its bandwidth to address connectivity issues that occurred in the early days of September. The school is working to bring back its students who are most in need of in-person instruction. According to Interim Superintendent Dennis Filippone, the district plans to resume in-person instruction for special education students AND for preschool students in early October.

Schools are now compliant with air filtration systems and signage, and the start of the hybrid model, as announced over the summer, is imminent, and is now planned for the beginning of November. Prior to the shift, parents will be surveyed again to determine their plans for sending their students. Parent decisions will affect staffing requirements, which remains uncertain.

Upcoming Dates:

Monday, Sept. 21 - Virtual meeting for parents of Special Education Students

Tuesday, Sept. 22 - GMB Back to School Night

Wednesday, Sept. 23 - JFK Back to School Night

Meetings are fully virtual, and can be accessed on the website on those days, or asynchronously after those dates.

Board Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 24. The board is close to their selection for the next Superintendent of schools, with interviews happening tonight (Wednesday, Sept. 15).

We are working on a way to save Halloween for our children. A plan is in the works, a proposal will be sent to all council members and township professionals for vetting and amendment, and we will announce details to the public before the start of October.

In short, the plan involves a township initiative and a contest that asks homeowners to have socially distanced trick-or-treating. The Spooky Slides contest takes its inspiration from Halloween enthusiasts who have shared the idea of decorating a 10 foot by 4-inch PVC pipe and mounting it at an angle so homeowners can slide the treats down to kids holding their Halloween treat bags below it. It keeps everyone safely distanced, and it honors all of the Halloween traditions that make us love and look forward to Halloween.

We will ask residents to register for the contest and we will distribute a map to trick-or-treaters ahead of time so they know where to go to get the goodies.

Also impacting the schools, the combined Land Use Board began a hearing for a use variance for the Busco Brothers property at 258 Gatzmer Avenue. The Applicant, Alex & Gabriel Properties, seeks to build a mixed-use complex including 8 1-bedroom apartments and 24 2-bedroom

apartments along with ground-floor retail. The site is not zoned for residential use. The hearing was not completed and was carried to the Land Use Board's October 8 meeting. Many residents attended the virtual hearing and at least 15 publicly voiced their opinions, some asking what impact the proposed structures would have on the Jamesburg school district. We appreciate all of these residents and their civic engagement

- **POLICE COMMITTEE**
Council Member Sussman

Councilmember Sussman was absent. Police Chief Craparotta spoke. Body cameras were deployed, officers have been trained by guidelines from the prosecutor's office. These will help to protect our officers. Middlesex County Prosecutor's has initiated a "Rapid Deployment Team" which will help with crowd control. Officers Worster and Signorello are on this team. The equipment is \$3500 and paid for by the prosecutor.

We had several incidents that went on in town:

August 27th – We arrested a 37-year-old female with 55 bags of heroin

August 28th - Tyree Cole age 38 was arrested for a robbery at the BP Gas Station

August 31st – At 2:08pm a call came in with a report of a suspicious item on the Railroad tracks on East Railroad Avenue which looked like it could be a pipe bomb. The Fire Department, Monroe Police, NJ State police and The Bomb Squad were all there. It was determined the item was a piece of equipment from the railroad that should be underground. Officers from the Jamesburg Police Department and Monroe Police Department played a softball game against Mikayla Rajai's team and lost. Mikayla is the daughter of Tommy Rajai a police officer who was killed in August of 2006. We think of her as our adopted niece. Since our team lost, we had to make a tic toc video

- **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**
Council President Czarneski

Council President Czarneski reported she spoke with Business Administrator Frueh and reviewed the day to day of the Borough Personnel. All continues to operate smoothly with no issues. Our next round of negotiations with Dispatch will be October 6th. We hope to finalize then. A special thank you to Chief Craparotta and the Police Department for all their hard work and dedication this past month.

- **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**
Council Member Rutsky

Councilmember Rutsky reported Administrator Frueh communicated with Paulie that the new dump truck has been ordered. Other failing equipment continues to be an issue for the crew. The starter on the final mower broke this week. A new started was purchased. New

sewer heads were also needed. Equipment is being prepared for fall leaf collection. Last minute request to cut and re-open Green Acres was made on Friday. More work still needs to be done to bring the fields up to standards. DPW has been made aware of the upcoming downtown music and outdoor dining events.

I would like to follow up on Jays Liquor Store and the Post Office. Mayor Lowande updated Jays Liquor Store has all the approvals from the town. They have 1 year to start the project. Borough Clerk, Susan Boulogne explained new plans for the Post Office were sent this week and sent to the Engineer for review.

- ENVIRONMENT/ GREEN COMMITTEE:
Council Member Ludas

Council Member Ludas reported the Community Herb Garden donations to downtown restaurants will continue until the end of September. I attended a Water Resources Authority meeting on Monday. The Lower Raritan watershed gave a detailed presentation on the continuous testing and clearing the Raritan River to achieve clean water for recreational use. I will leave copies for the Mayor and Council. The Downtown Music Night was a huge success on September 4th. By popular demand the Fabulous Benson Boys will return for two more Fall Music Nights. September 25th and October 9th, both Friday nights from 6-8pm. They will be located in front of Mendokers. Please come out and dine or stroll around town to listen to the music. Masks and social distancing are mandatory.

- ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Scott Frueh

Administrator Frueh was absent. Mayor Lowande spoke for him. We have a 2016 Grant for \$109,000. Chapter 159 for June was approved for Green Initiative and Clean Community.

- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE / RECREATION / COMMUNITY EVENTS:
Mayor Marlene Lowande

Mayor Lowande Reported the town received a compliment from the bomb squad on how the situation on August 31st was handled by our town. Halloween is on. We encourage to do it safely. The contest Councilmember Shaughnessy talked about is a great idea. COVID cases in Jamesburg are holding steady. Keep washing hands, social distancing and wearing masks. I had a County meeting today. There is a surplus of money to help people who can't afford to get tested.

Someone is interested in leasing our baseball fields. This will have to go out to bid. Whoever leases the fields would be required to do the maintenance of the fields. This is a good way to generate revenue for the town. Councilmember Czarneski asked if these funds could go

toward the DPW. Mayor Lowande explained they would be used wherever they are needed. Right now, a baseball team is renting the fields. Bathrooms are not being used due to the COVID restrictions. Councilmember Rutsky had concerns over the fact that the DPW will have to be paid overtime to turn the lights on and off while fields are being rented. Hopefully we are making enough money to cover those costs.

BP Gas – Mayor Lowande read a letter from the Land Use Board Chairman regarding the gas station being non-compliant. There are two options we can use, one being issue a summons and charge a fine of \$100 per day until compliant. The second one is to shut them down until they are in compliance. We have given them more than one extension. Mayor Lowande would like to issue a summons, then give them a month, if not moving forward then shut them down. Councilmembers Ludas, Rutsky, Shaughnessy and Czarneski all agree this has gone on long enough. Attorney Raffetto agrees to move forward and site them with fines. He will speak with land Use Attorney Mike Balint to revoke approvals. Its been excuse after excuse. I say we issue summons and move accordingly.

Vacation of Alleyway Request from the beginning of the meeting:

Borough Attorney Fred Raffetto explained the Borough would be willing to vacate the alleyway. He explained the laws to streets and alleyways and how the property owners own to the middle of the road. If we were to vacate the property owner gains the property back. He recommends the property owner retains an attorney to help with the process, and is willing to help out also.

Chris Cardile - Mr. Cardile spoke with adjacent property owners.. He would be willing to acquire any cost they don't want to maintain the alleyway. Marilyn Tominus is the adjacent neighbor and would be ok with it as long as she still has to the center line of the alleyway. Borough Attorney Fred Raffetto explained the Borough can vacate an alleyway by ordinance. The property owner as well as the adjacent property owner would gain access to the middle. There are costs involved. He suggests escrow funds to cover and recommends a lawyer. Mr. Cardile is ok with the escrow cost and obtaining a lawyer.

Borough Attorney Raffetto asked the Mayor for a follow up on the issue at the last council meeting regarding outdoor seating for the Elks Lodge. Mayor Lowande explains they are treating it like a restaurant. Two tables are allowed in the front of the building and may stay out until November 1st.

Christine Ward – Borough Court Administrator wanted to let the Mayor and Council know that her neighbor who is a State trooper was very impressed in our police department on how the situation was handles on August 31st. the police did a great job and had road shut down when they arrive on the scene.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Proposed By: Rutsky

Seconded By: Czarneski

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT:

8:02PM

Susan Boulogne
Registered Municipal Clerk
Borough of Jamesburg