



BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2017

Mayor George read the OPMA notice into the record:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was emailed to the HERALD NEWS and the HAWTHORNE PRESS on November 6, 2017, and was advertised in said newspapers on November 9, 2017. Said notice was posted on the bulletin board on the same date and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Proper notice having been given, this meeting was called to order 9:42 p.m. and the Clerk was directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Randy George

Council Members: Raymond Melone, Rocco Luisi, George Pomianek, Donna Puglisi, Heather Sparano, and Keith Salviano

Borough Attorney, Michael De Marco

Municipal Clerk, Renate Elatab

Also present: Captain Todd Darby (was excused at 10:25 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Council Member by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Luisi, to open the floor to the public. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Seeing as no one from the public asked to speak, motion by Council Member by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Luisi, to close the floor to the public. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

The following reports were submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office

Building Official's Report
Clerk's Receipts
Fire Department Report
Municipal Court Report
Police Department Report
Property Maintenance Report
Tax Collector's Report to Treasurer
Treasurer's Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW / STREETS & ROADS / SEWERS/ BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING - **MELONE**
POLICE / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / SAFETY / PBA LOCAL 292 - **PUGLISI**
RECREATION - **PUGLISI**
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - **PUGLISI**
NORTH HALEDON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE – **MAYOR GEORGE**
FINANCE – **POMIANEK**
PLANNING BOARD - **SALVIANO**
BOARD OF EDUCATION / LOCAL - **LUISI**
BOARD OF EDUCATION / REGIONAL - **POMIANEK**
BOARD OF HEALTH – **SALVIANO**
FIRE & WATER - **LUISI**
ENGINEERING - **POMIANEK**
LIBRARY - **MAYOR GEORGE**
PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS - **MAYOR GEORGE**. Mayor George advised that there will be a food truck event on June 9, from noon to 6 pm, at the rec fields.

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Melone, that above reports be received, action taken where necessary, and reports be placed on file. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications below were presented at the Work Session Meeting.

No. Haledon Bd. of Education	Re: Letter from Councilman Ray Melone
No. Haledon Public Library	Re: 2018 Funding
Police Chief Robert Bracco	Re: Alex Parenta / Off Probation
Police Chief Robert Bracco	Re: Amy Guido / PT Dispatcher

Police Chief Robert Bracco	Re: EMS Responses
Fire Chief A. J. Ricciardi	Re: New Members
Fire Chief A. J. Ricciardi	Re: Clothing Allowance
Raymond Melone	Re: School Board Elections
Karen Lomascola	Re: Terminal Leave & Retirement
Mayor Keith Kazmarck	Re: Tax Reforms
Hitesh Bhatt	Re: 535 High Mountain Rd. / ADA Violation
Hitesh Bhatt	Re: Council Members Emails
Mayor Randy George	Re: Complaints from Mr. Bhatt re: Inspections and Confidential Emails
Hitesh Bhatt	Re: Request for Certificate of Inspection
Renate Elatab	Re: Response to Mr. Bhatt / OPRA Request
Michael De Marco	Re: Wizards Pub

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Melone, that these communications be received, action taken where necessary, and that they be placed on file. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Luisi, that the Clerk read the resolution by title and waive the reading of the resolution in full. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Resolution CA#13-2017

Re: Consent Agenda

The Clerk presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Council of the Borough of North Haledon have reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Council of the Borough of North Haledon are not desirous of removing any resolution for individual action from the agenda; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the following resolutions on the consent agenda are hereby approved and adopted.

1. Tax Title Lien Redemption
2. Authorization / Change Fund
3. December Transfers
4. Tax Appeals
5. Appointment / Probationary Firefighter / Andrew Farrow
6. Appointment / Junior Firefighter / Zachary Dansen
7. Off Probation / Alex Parenta

8. Tax Title Lien Redemption
9. Raise / Court Administrator
10. Appointment / Part-time Dispatcher / Amy Guido
11. Off Probation / Russell Walters
12. SALT Deductibility
13. Approval Raffle Licenses
14. Terminal Leave / Retirement / Karen Lomascola
15. Approval / Clothing Allowances / Fire Department
16. Authorization / Payment of Bills / Issuance of Checks
17. Vacation Carry Overs

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Pomianek, to approve the foregoing resolution. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Resolution #190-2017

Re: Tax Title Lien Redemption

WHEREAS, the bank of the property located at 17 Kuiken Court, also known as Block 24.02 lot 8.16, came into the Tax Collector’s Office on November 7, 2017 with a check to redeem Tax Title Certificate 14-00011, dated June 3, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the payment was issued to the Borough of North Haledon, and same was deposited in the current account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to issue a check to the following:

Redemption \$12,972.06
 Premium \$20,500.00

Touma & Associates LLC
 30 Henry Street
 Glen Rock, NJ 07052

Resolution #191-2017

Re: Authorization / Change Fund

WHEREAS, from time to time the North Haledon Municipal Court is required to make change for cash payments received; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to maintain such a fund for use of operation of the court office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the change fund listed herein and below be established

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the listed custodian be responsible for the maintenance of the corresponding Change Fund.

Committee	Custodian	Amount
North Haledon Municipal Court	Sue Inturrisi	\$200.00

Resolution #192-2017

Re: Authorization / Transfers

WHEREAS, certain appropriations were required and provided for during the calendar year 2017 and will require additional sums for expenditures to the end of 2017; and

WHEREAS, other appropriations reflect that balances do exist as of the end of the year 2017; and

WHEREAS, it is provided per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 that municipalities may make transfers from appropriations having excesses to those requiring additional sums.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of North Haledon that the list of transfers herein and below be and they are authorized to be made upon records of appropriations in the keeping of the Finance Director as per the amounts listed herein, provided this resolution is adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership of the Governing Body as required by Statute.

	<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>
ASSESSMENT OF TAXES O/E	\$ 375.00	
ENGINEERING O/E	\$ 25,000.00	
FIRE PREVENTION - UNIFORM FIRE SAFETY S&W	\$ 269.52	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	\$ 7,535.50	
POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	\$ 3,746.86	
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS O/E	\$ 8,000.00	
STREET LIGHTING	\$ 27,000.00	
GASOLINE	\$ 12,000.00	
ROAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE S&W		\$ 20,000.00
ELECTRICITY		\$ 36,000.00
FIRE HYDRANT		\$ 4,000.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH		\$ 23,926.88
MUNICIPAL COURT O/E	\$ 750.00	
MUNICIPAL COURT S&W		\$ 750.00
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	\$ 84,676.88	\$ 84,676.88

Resolution #193-2017

Re: Tax Appeals

WHEREAS, the owners of the property listed below filed an assessment appeal with the Tax Court of New Jersey, and,

WHEREAS, the Tax Court reduced the assessment therefore reducing the taxes for the year 2012, 2013, 2014

WHEREAS, all the taxes were already paid,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the total amount listed below to be charged against Tax Appeals.

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT REDUCTION</u>	<u>REFUND to be issued as a check</u>
36.05	11	10,000 for 2012	256.90
36.05	11	10,000 for 2013	273.00
36.05	11	10,000 for 2014	272.30

McKirdy, Riskin, Olson & DellaPelle Attorney's at Law
 136 South St
 PO Box 2379
 Morristown, N.J. 07962-2379

Block 36.05 Lot 11 Blaise and Tina Benevenga
 25 Dykers Farm Rd
 No Haledon, NJ 07508

Resolution #194-2017

Re: Appointment / Probationary Fireman

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that Andrew Farrow, 4 Rosslee Avenue, be appointed as a probationary firefighter effective immediately

Resolution #195-2017

Re: Appointment / Junior Firefighter

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that Zachary Dansen, 36 Walray Avenue, be appointed as a junior firefighter effective immediately.

Resolution #196-2017

Re: Off Probation / Alex Parenta

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon that Alex Parenta, upon successfully completing his one year probationary period is hereby taken off probation effective December 16, 2017.

Resolution #197-2017

Re: Tax Title Lien Redemption

WHEREAS, the bank of the property located at 35 Michelle Court, also known as Block 70 lot 7.12, came into the Tax Collector's Office on November 22, 2017 with a check to redeem Tax Title Certificate 16-00005, dated June 29, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the payment was issued to the Borough of North Haledon, and same was deposited in the current account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to issue a check to the following:

Redemption \$13,740.63

Ridgeback Ventures LLC
PO Box 503
Mount Freedom, NJ 07970

Resolution #198-2017

Re: Raise / Court Administrator

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the following raise be given in accordance with Salary Ordinance 2017.

Municipal Court Administrator \$5,000.00

Resolution #199-2017

Re: Appointment / PT Dispatcher

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon that Amy Guido, 28 Spruce Lane, North Haledon, NJ be employed as part time dispatcher, retro-active to November 28, 2017, salary in accordance with the Salary and Wages Ordinance for 2017.

Resolution #200-2017

Re: Off Probation / Russel Walters

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon that Russell Walters, having successfully completed his 90 day probationary period is hereby taken off probation effective January 1, 2018.

Resolution #201-2017

Re: Elimination / SALT Deduction

WHEREAS, the Federal Tax Code is incredibly complex and every one of its provisions was enacted for a reason. While some of those reasons may no longer serve the public's interest, others remain fair and effective tools that promote the general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) has been a feature of the tax code for more than 100 years. In 1913, the first federal income tax form allowed taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes, one of only six deductions allowed at the time. Even the federal Civil War tax in 1862 included a deduction for SALT; and

WHEREAS, this provision ensures against double taxation and reflects mandatory tax payments, which support public services that benefit all citizens, such as K-12 schools, law enforcement and public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and vital community and public health services; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers in all 50 states – and in both Democratic and Republican congressional districts – benefit from the SALT deduction. The SALT deduction is claimed by taxpayers of all income levels. The deduction is especially important for middle income homeowners, as fifty percent of the deductions claimed by taxpayers making \$50,000 to \$100,000 are for property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the SALT deduction does not unfairly benefit taxpayers in high tax states. To the contrary, low tax states are generally more dependent on the federal government, receiving more in federal funding than they pay in federal taxes. According to one study, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana are among the most subsidized states, receiving about \$3 in federal spending for every \$1 contributed in taxes; while New Jersey, New York and Illinois are among the states that receive less than \$1 from the federal government for every \$1 paid in federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the SALT deduction would raise taxes on middle class homeowners – even if the standard deduction were doubled. A recent study commissioned by the National Association of Realtors found that homeowners with adjusted gross incomes (AGI) between \$50,000 and \$200,000 would see an average tax increase of \$815 if SALT were eliminated and the standard deduction were doubled; and

WHEREAS, SALT is strongly tied to home ownership since the overwhelming number of itemizers who claim the deduction (44 million) deduct property taxes (40.7 million) and mortgage interest (35.4 million). Eliminating SALT will diminish the value of the mortgage interest deduction, resulting in a 10% decline in home values in the immediate term; now, therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon urge New Jersey’s U.S. Senators, Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and Representative *Rodney Frelinghuysen* to oppose, with voice and vote, any proposal to eliminate the fair and reasonable SALT deductibility provision from the Federal Tax Code; and be it, further;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our above named representatives in Congress, all other Members of the House of Representatives representing New Jersey taxpayers and municipalities, and to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Resolution #202-2017

Re: Approval / Raffle Licenses

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the following Raffle Licenses be approved as submitted, providing all rules and regulations of Legalized Games of Chance are adhered to:

Name: North Haledon Education Foundation
Location of Raffle: 1245 Belmont Avenue
Date of Raffle: December 16, 2017
Raffle License: RA#31-2017, 32-2017, 33-2017

Name: Mary Help of Christians Academy
Location of Raffle: 1245 Belmont Avenue
Date of Raffle: January – March 2018
Raffle License: RA#34-2017

Name: Sicomac School PTO
Location of Raffle: 1245 Belmont Avenue
Date of Raffle: January 27, 2017
Raffle License: RA#35-2017 & #36-2017

Resolution #203-2017

**Re: Terminal Leave /Retirement
Court Administrator**

WHEREAS, Court Administrator, Karen Lomascola, has submitted her letter of retirement;
and

WHEREAS, Karen Lomascola has accumulated enough unused days for which she is entitled to be compensated, which would permit her to be out on terminal leave from January 1, 2018 up to March 1, 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of North Haledon that:

1. Karen Lomascola's letter of retirement is hereby accepted with regret, thanks and appreciation for her many years of service to the Borough of North Haledon and its citizens.
2. Karen Lomascola is hereby authorized to use her unused days for which she is entitled to be compensated, which would permit her to be out on terminal leave from January 1, 2018 until March 1, 2018, with the express understanding that during said terminal leave, Karen Lomascola shall be entitled to all benefits and emoluments for her position.

Resolution #204-2017

**Re: Approval / Fire Department
2017 Clothing Allowance**

WHEREAS, a clothing allowance for the year 2017 will be awarded to various volunteer North Haledon firefighters in accordance with Borough Ordinance #30-2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following firefighters receive a clothing allowance as follows:

Nick Adesso	\$673.48
Chad Boonstra	\$854.02
Dean Brauch	\$515.07
Nick Dansen	\$769.95
Brian Faasse	\$323.91
Ryan Graham	\$983.62
Alan Hofer	\$488.52
Dan Hook	\$758.44
Mike Kameno	\$461.97
Tim Lalley	\$764.64

Tyler Ormezzano	\$477.90
Anthony Padula	\$1,100.03
Philip Palkewick	\$608.87
Andrew Ricciardi	\$1,520.38
Louis Schott	\$329.22
Steve Schott	\$615.96
Tom Ursetti	\$754.02

Resolution #205-2017

**Re: Payment of Bills /
Issuance of Checks / \$6,843,642.59**

WHEREAS certain bills which are contained on the bills list which is attached hereto and incorporated herein have been submitted to the Borough of North Haledon for payment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5:16, it has been certified to the Governing Body that the goods and services for which said bills were submitted have been received by or rendered to the Borough of North Haledon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the Mayor, Assistant Treasurer, and Administrator, be and are hereby authorized to sign checks in payment of the bills set forth in the attached schedule.

Resolution #206-2017

Re: Vacation Carry-Overs

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that as per Chapter 20, Section 20-17 of the Code of the Borough of North Haledon, that permission to carry over vacation time into 2018 be granted as follows:

Renate Elatab	13 days
Keith Sloomaker	15 days

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Police vacation carry-over be approved in accordance with, and verified by, the Chief of Police.

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Luisi, to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Mayor George recuses himself and exits the Council Chambers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (in: 10:25 p.m. out 10:30 p.m.)

Resolution #207-2017

Re: Execution / MOA / PBA

Council President George Pomianek read the resolution into the record:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Haledon that the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute a memorandum of agreement by and between the Borough of North Haledon and PBA Local 292, for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022 reflecting the terms discussed in Executive Session on December 13, 2017.

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Sparano, to approve the foregoing resolution. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Mayor George returned to dais at 10:32 p.m.

Mayor George advised that he will be hiring a full-time person to help with requisitions and telephone inquiries in the Finance Office, as well as filling in for the Violations Clerk in the Court Office, and possibly helping out in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Mayor George advised that Councilman Salviano had brought up the idea of building a "wall of honor" to recognize North Haledon residents, who are deployed in the US armed services. Since the Department of Defense does not divulge the names of enlisted personnel, he asked the members of the Governing Body to spread the word that the Borough is looking for names of active duty personnel, so that they can be honored.

Mayor George advised that Chief Bracco has received a proposal for the installation of security cameras around the Borough, but this proposal does not include cameras for the municipal building and the municipal offices, which Mayor George believes should be made a priority. Councilwoman Puglisi gave Captain Darby the contact information for the business that installed security cameras in the municipal building in Elmwood Park, where she works.

Mayor George advised that the IT person will program the time clock for 2018 (i.e. in put vacation, holiday, and sick time for all employees). Contrary to rumors, the time clock has been collecting data on all employees in administration since it was installed.

Mayor George advised that The Tides Estate is asking to be grand-fathered into the 55 decibels they were permitted prior to the adoption of the noise ordinance.

Councilwoman Puglisi talked about the Otto Benz paintings the Borough had received. She displayed one painting, which had been restored, and framed in a gold frame. She was going to return it so that it could be framed in a silver frame as she had requested. Councilwoman Puglisi advised that the second painting is quite damaged and that Angelo Cifaldi was going to inquire as to how much it would cost to restore it, and that he would lend the painting to the Borough and then leave it to the Borough in his will it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Puglisi, second by Council Member Sparano, to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Mayor George declared the meeting duly adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renate Elatab, Municipal Clerk

Approved at Council Meeting of January 24, 2018