

The Regular Meeting of The Mayor and The Borough Council of The Borough of Glen Ridge was held on Monday, March 14, 2022 in the Glen Ridge council chambers at 7:30 p. m.

Council President Mans led The Council and the citizens in attendance in a Salute to the Flag and read a prepared statement that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public as required by statutes.

Present: Councilors Morrow, Hughes, Lefkovits, Mans and Law

Absent: Mayor Patrick and Councilor Meyer

The following Borough Officers participated in the teleconference: Borough Administrator Michael Zichelli, Chief Sean Quinn, Borough Clerk Tara Ventola and Borough Attorney Malyska.

Council President Mans presented resolution13-22 to the members of the public.

It was moved by Councilor Morrow, seconded by Councilor Lefkovits, that the Minutes of the Meeting of The Mayor and Borough Council of The Borough of Glen Ridge that was held on February 14, 2022, be approved as submitted.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

Council President Mans called for comments of the public.

Raymond Donnelly of 22 Madison Street spoke on four topics:

- Bay and Forest Avenues flashing pedestrian lights
- Postering within the Borough
- Graffiti
- Potholes

RESOLUTION NO. 58-22

Offered by Councilor **MORROW**
 Seconded by Councilor **LEFKOVITS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Claims be approved, and Warrants be drawn for the same:

CURRENT FUND	\$3,064,990.97
FEDERAL & STATE GRANT FUND	\$0.00
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$0.00
WATER OPERATING FUND	\$106,308.79
WATER CAPITAL FUND	\$0.00
POOL OPERATING FUND	\$120.00
POOL CAPITAL FUND	\$0.00
GENERAL TRUST FUND	\$2,530.40
PAYROLL AGENCY	\$86,971.26
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND	\$0.00
DOG LICENSE / ANIMAL CONTROL TRUST FUND	\$277.20

and, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer of The Borough of Glen Ridge is hereby authorized to issue the payroll for the Employees of the Borough of Glen Ridge for the Pay

Date March 15, 2022.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

RESOLUTION NO. 59 – 22

Offered by Councilor **MORROW**
 Seconded by Councilor **HUGHES**

WHEREAS, The Borough of Glen Ridge Chief of Police Sean Quinn, has requested that a **Petty Cash Fund** be established for the **Glen Ridge Police Department** in the sum of **\$600.00**; and,

WHEREAS, The Borough of Glen Ridge Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Matthew Laracy has approved this request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, The County of Essex, New Jersey hereby approves the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund for the Glen Ridge Police Department in the sum of **\$600.00**.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

RESOLUTION NO. 60–22

Offered by Councilor **HUGHES**
 Seconded by Councilor **LAW**

Whereas, on February 14, 2022 the Glen Ridge Mayor and Council adopted Resolution 47-22 which determined that numerous dead and broken branches identified on the privately owned trees located at 150 Ridgewood Avenue, designated as Lot 20 in Block 35 on Borough tax maps, presented a threat to the public health, safety and general welfare and that it was necessary and expedient for the preservation of the public health, safety, and general welfare for said dead and broken branches, and to the extent necessary trees, to be removed from the Property; and

WHEREAS, a copy of Resolution 47-22 was served upon the property owner via certified mail, return receipt requested and also by regular mail; and

WHEREAS, the Property Owner did not remove said dead and broken branches within 10 days after the service of the Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works and the Borough Forester reviewed the trees in question and determined that the Borough staff was not capable of removing the trees and for such reason sought proposals for the work to remove the trees and branches, and

WHEREAS, Downes Tree Service, Inc. provided the lowest responsible proposal in the amount of \$5,200.00; and

WHEREAS, Downes Tree Service, Inc. completed the work on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 and the Director of Public Works has certified to the Mayor and Council that the work has been completed in accordance with the scope and cost contained in the proposal submitted by Downes Tree Service, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the certification from the Director of Public Works and finds it correct.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the hazardous tree and branch removal at 150 Ridgewood Avenue is hereby certified in the amount of \$5,200.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of \$5,200.00 shall be charged against the Property and the amount so charged shall forthwith become a lien upon the Property and shall be added to and become a part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon the Property for the calendar quarter immediately following the adoption of this Resolution (i.e., taxes for the calendar quarter commencing April 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2022) and said amount shall bear interest at the same rate as taxes and shall be collected and enforced by the same officers and in the same manner as taxes (i.e., if not paid by May 10, 2022, interest shall run thereon at the same rate as taxes).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be served upon the property owner via certified mail, return receipt requested and also by regular mail, as soon as convenient after the adoption of this Resolution and that a certificate as to such service be maintained in the records of the Borough.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

RESOLUTION NO. 61-22

Offered by Councilor **MORROW**
 Seconded by Councilor **HUGHES**

WHEREAS, a prior owner of property located at 99 Forest Avenue and designated as Glen Ridge Tax Block 102, Lot 5 (the **“Property”**) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on August 19, 1992, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey under Case No.: 93-35298 (the **“Bankruptcy Proceeding”**);

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the Bankruptcy Proceeding, the following real estate taxes (the **“1991-1992 Taxes”**) assessed against the Property were not paid:

Quarter	Due Date	Amount
2 nd Q 1991	4/1/91	1,303.24
3 rd Q 1991	7/1/91	2,272.88
4 th Q 1991	10/1/91	2,272.87
1 st Q 1992	1/1/92	2,175.69
2 nd Q 1992	4/1/92	2,175.69
3 rd Q 1992	7/1/92	2,370.06
4 th Q 1992	10/1/92	2,370.06
Total		\$14,940.49

WHEREAS, more than 30 years have passed since the 1991-1992 Taxes first became due and owing;

WHEREAS, over the course of said 30 years, title to the Property has been transferred and the non-payment of the 1991-1992 Taxes was at no time raised as a title transfer issue on the mistaken assumption that the resolution of the payment of the 1991-1992 Taxes was resolved as part of the Bankruptcy Proceeding;

WHEREAS, failure to pay real estate taxes can result in a lien which encumbers the affected property and the governing body of a municipality has the power to “abate, revise, alter, adjust and settle any past due taxes, assessments and other municipal charges, both of principal and of any and all interest and penalties thereon, as it shall deem

equitable and just and be for the best interests of the municipality” but only to the extent allowed by N.J.S.A. 54:4-99 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-100;

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has advised that N.J.S.A. 54:4-99 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-100 do not, in the present circumstances, authorize the governing body to abate, revise, alter, adjust and settle the 1991-1992 Taxes, both as to principal and as to any and all interest and penalties thereon, regardless of what the governing body may otherwise deem equitable and just and/or deem to be in the best interests of the municipality;

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has nonetheless opined that, notwithstanding the limitations imposed on the governing body by N.J.S.A. 54:4-99 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-100, too long a period of time has lapsed from the due dates of the 1991-1992 Taxes and regardless what statute of limitations is applied to the situation at hand, none would permit a viable action to enforce collection of the 1991-1992 Taxes;

NOW THEREFORE, based on the above and the advice of the Borough Attorney,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, Essex County, New Jersey, the 1991-1992 Taxes in the amount of \$14,940.49 and associated penalties and interest related to their late payment are hereby cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution recognizes that Sheremet and Venera Gashi, the current owners of the Property, are current in paying the property taxes for the Property through the 1st quarter of 2022 and this cancellation applies only to the 1991-1992 Taxes and any associated penalties and interest that may have otherwise been due thereon.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

RESOLUTION NO. 62-22

Offered by Councilor **MORROW**
 Seconded by Councilor **LEFKOVITS**

WHEREAS, The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in effort to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, County of Essex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages and therefore established a Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, The Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, The Borough Council has applied for funding to The Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through The County of Essex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Borough of Glen Ridge, County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for The Glen Ridge Municipal Alliance grant for the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amounts of:
 DEDR \$ 13,100.00

Cash Match \$ 3,275.00
 In Kind \$ 9,825.00

- The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

Councilor Hughes, Chair of the Public Safety Committee asked Chief Quinn to report on recent traffic study details.

Ordinance No. 1760 an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.16.025 Multi Stop Intersections Designated; was presented for final reading. The Ordinance title was read by Councilor Hughes. Municipal Clerk Ventola reported that the Ordinance has been published and posted as required by statutes. Council President Mans declared the meeting open for a public hearing on the Ordinance. No one wished to be heard on the Ordinance. Council President Mans declared the Public Hearing closed. It was moved by Councilor Hughes, seconded by Councilor Lefkovits that Ordinance No. **1760** be finally adopted. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote.

Mayor Patrick declared that this Ordinance is finally adopted.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

RESOLUTION NO. 63-22

Offered by Councilor **HUGHES**
 Seconded by Councilor **LEFKOVITS**

Resolution of the Borough of Glen Ridge County of Essex, State of New Jersey Authorizing Fireworks Display on Private Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 21:3-3 and Borough Ordinance 1662 requires the Governing Body to authorize the display of fireworks on private property subject to the review and approval of the Municipal Fire and Police Officials;

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted by the GLEN RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB located at 555 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ to host a Fireworks Display on private property between the hours of 8:45 p.m. and approximately 10:00 p.m. on July 4, 2022 and said application has been deemed to be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 21:3-3 and Borough Ordinance 1662;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge that that approval is hereby given for the Fireworks Display on private property of the Glen Ridge Country Club located at 555 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ between the hours of 8:45 p.m. and approximately 10:00 p.m. on July 4, 2022 pending any and all restrictions and requirements in place due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Law	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes							
	Lefkovits							

Councilor Lefkovits, Chair of the Public Relations and Community Affairs committee discussed the upcoming interest charges on water bills.

Councilor President Mans, Chair of the Public Works Committee reported that public works crews have been repairing pot holes and prepping fields for the upcoming spring sports season.

Ordinance No. 1761 an Ordinance to renew the SEA contract was presented for first reading; Council President Mans moved that Ordinance No. **1761** be passed on first reading; the motion was seconded by Councilor Morrow. Council President Mans referred the Ordinance to the Municipal Clerk for the purposes of statutory publication and posting.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Mans	None		None		Meyer	
	Hughes	Law						
	Lefkovits							

Councilor Law, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee reported the Lacrosse team will be hosting a Fun Run next Sunday.

Chief Quinn thanked Nancy McMahon for her work on the MAC grant application. He also stated the Police Department Annual Report has been posted to the website.

Administrator Zichelli reported on the water and utility interest and shut off notices. He also thanked Nancy McMahon for her work on the MAC grant application.

Council President Mans called for comments of the public.

Ray Donnelly of 22 Madison Street reported on some graffiti he has noticed throughout the Borough.

It was moved by Councilor Mans, seconded by Councilor Meyer that this meeting be adjourned. The Motion was adopted by an aye and no vote.

RECORDED VOTE:	Ayes		Nays		Abstained		Absent	
(Insert last name)	Morrow	Mans	None		None		None	
	Hughes	Law						
	Lefkovits	Meyer						

The Council adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Tara Ventola

Municipal Clerk