

ORIGINAL

CITY OF UNION CITY
HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

:
:
:
:
TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED
PROCEEDINGS

Union City High School
2500 Kennedy Boulevard
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Commencing at 7:22 p.m.

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T:

LUCIO P. FERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
MARYURY A. MARTINETTI, COMMISSIONER
CELIN J. VALDIVIA, COMMISSIONER
WENDY A. GRULLON, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN P. STACK, MAYOR

M E M B E R S A B S E N T:

A L S O P R E S E N T:

ERIN M. KNOEDLER, CITY CLERK

SCARINCI HOLLENBECK
BY: ANGELO AUTERI, ESQ.
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1 CITY CLERK: This is a Regular Public
2 Meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
3 being held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at seven
4 p.m., at the Union City High School, 2500 Kennedy
5 Boulevard, Union City, New Jersey.

6 Can you please stand for the Pledge of
7 Allegiance?

8
9 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
10 said by all.)

11
12 CITY CLERK: This meeting has been called
13 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

14 Adequate notice of the meeting has been
15 provided to The Jersey Journal, The Record, and
16 The Hudson Reporter, and has been posted on the
17 bulletin board in City Hall and made available to
18 the public in the Office of the Municipal Clerk,
19 as well as posted on the website.

20

21 **ROLL CALL:**

22

23 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

25 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

1 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

2 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

4 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

6 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

7 MAYOR STACK: Here.

8

9 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
10 action on the following item:

11 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - REGULAR**
12 **MEETING - APRIL 16, 2020 and APRIL 28, 2020.)**

13

14 CITY CLERK: The first item is the Approval
15 of the Meeting Minutes from the meetings of April
16 16th, 2020 and April 28th, 2020.

17 May I have a motion to approve?

18 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

19 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

20 CITY CLERK: Motion by --

21 MAYOR STACK: Second.

22 CITY CLERK: -- Mayor Stack.

23 Second by Commissioner Martinetti.

24 Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

9

10 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
11 action on the following items in total:

12 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

13 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims

14 (2) Resolution Approving the Payment of
15 Concurring Claims

16 (3) Resolution Approving the City Payroll for
17 May 9th through May 22, 2020

18 (4) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
19 for May 9th through May 22, 2020

20 (5) Resolution Authorizing a Chapter 159
21 Special Revenue Item for Alcohol Education
22 Rehabilitation Fund

23 (6) Resolution Authorizing the City Clerk to
24 Advertise for Bids for the 6th Street Road
25 Improvement Project

- 1 (7) Resolution Authorizing the City Clerk to
2 Advertise for Bids for the Drago Dog Park
3 Improvement Project
- 4 (8) Resolution Authorizing the City Clerk to
5 Advertise for Bids for the Peru Park Improvements
6 Project
- 7 (9) Resolution Authorizing the City Clerk to
8 Advertise for Bids for the 2020 Tree Planting
9 Program
- 10 (10) Resolution Authorizing the Extension of a
11 Contract for Solid Waste and Recycling Services
12 with Joseph Smentkowski, Inc. (Galaxy Carting)
- 13 (11) Resolution Lowering the Interest Rate on
14 2nd Quarter Abatement Taxes
- 15 (12) Resolution Extending the Due Date on
16 Abatement Taxes.)

17

18 CITY CLERK: There are 12 items on the
19 Consent Agenda.

20 The first is a Resolution Approving a
21 Payment of Claims.

22 The second is a Resolution Approving the
23 Payment of Concurring Claims.

24 The third is a Resolution Approving the
25 City Payroll for Period of May 9th through May

1 22nd, 2020.

2 The fourth is a Resolution Approving the
3 Library Payroll for May 9th through May 22nd,
4 2020.

5 The fifth is a Resolution Authorizing a
6 Chapter 159 Special Revenue Item for Alcohol
7 Education Rehabilitation Fund.

8 The sixth is a Resolution Authorizing the
9 City Clerk to Advertise for Bids for 6th Street
10 Road Improvement Project.

11 The seventh is a Resolution Authorizing the
12 City Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the Drago
13 Dog Park Improvement Project.

14 The eighth is a Resolution Authorizing the
15 City Clerk to Advertise for Bids for Peru Park
16 Improvement Project.

17 The ninth is a Resolution Authorizing the
18 City Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the 2020
19 Tree Planting Program.

20 The tenth is a Resolution Authorizing an
21 Extension of the Contract for Solid Waste and
22 Recycling Services with Joseph -- Joseph
23 Smentkowski, Incorporated, Galaxy Carting.

24 The eleventh is a Resolution Lowering the
25 Interest Rate on Second Quarter Abatement Taxes.

1 And the twelfth is a Resolution Extending
2 the Due Date on Abatement Taxes.

3 Mayor, at this time would you like to take
4 public comment on Consent Agenda?

5 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

6 Just before we do, on number 6, the
7 advertisement for the 6th Street, that would be
8 repaving 6th Street between Summit Avenue and
9 Kennedy Boulevard; a street that really needs to
10 be done.

11 We did it a number of years ago -- many,
12 many years ago; like 18, 19 years ago. Needs to
13 be done again. The street's in bad shape from
14 cuts that were done in the street many years ago.
15 So that's well needed.

16 The advertisement for bids for Drago Park,
17 I thank the Commissioners for always doing a
18 great job on all our parks; specifically,
19 Commissioner Valdivia.

20 This small park is on 18th and Cliff. All
21 we're doing is taking a small park -- it's like
22 -- very small, like a postage stamp so-to-speak
23 park. We're just going to be taking that park --

24 And right now it's used as a little doggie
25 park.

1 -- we're going to be going and putting some
2 doggie turf in, getting a water supply in there,
3 maybe a couple plantings, a couple smaller toys
4 for small dogs.

5 It's been requested by the neighborhood.
6 It's a good use of space. The space is very,
7 very small. It's probably from the end of Erin's
8 table to the end of my table, going back; maybe
9 not even that big.

10 So it's a good use of a little park that's
11 well used by the dog owners in that area.

12 Peru Park is on 24th and -- 24th and Central
13 to -- Central to West. That park is going to be
14 redone; nice new equipment. It's going to look
15 -- it's going to look really nice when it's
16 totally completed.

17 I remember when we did that park
18 originally. It's going to be a lot nicer than
19 what we have there right now.

20 The Tree Planting Program is to plant
21 hundreds of trees again throughout the community.

22 This is in addition to our tree planting
23 that we do with our Street Program, where we're
24 going to be planting over a thousand trees.

25 We'll be adding probably an additional

1 hundred seventy-five trees, I believe, here. I
2 could be off by some. But I believe it's a
3 hundred and seventy-five trees throughout the
4 City; replacing the dead trees and the stumps
5 that are throughout the City.

6 Resolution on Lowering the Interest Rate on
7 the Second Quarter Abatement Taxes and Extending
8 the Due Date for Abatement Taxes is basically
9 what we did giving all the property owners --
10 this would include everyone -- until June 30th to
11 pay their property tax bill, due to the COVID-19
12 -- the COVID-19 outbreak that we had -- we still
13 experience at this time. Just to give the
14 homeowners some relief and giving them more time
15 to make their payment.

16 I know originally it was May 10th. The
17 Governor extended that to June 1st.

18 We went to June 30th, which is the most
19 amount of time we could give the taxpayers to
20 come in and make their property tax payment.

21 Having said that, is there anyone wishing
22 to comment at this time?

23 Any member of the public wishing to comment
24 at this time?

25 Any of the Commissioners wishing to comment

1 at this time?

2 Okay.

3 Seeing none.

4 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close

5 public comment?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

7 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner

8 Fernandez.

9 Second?

10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

11 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner

12 Grullon.

13 Commissioner Fernandez?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

15 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

16 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

17 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

18 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

19 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

20 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

22 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

24 May I have a motion to approve all items on

25 Consent?

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

2 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
3 Valdivia.

4 Second?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

6 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
7 Fernandez.

8 Commissioner Fernandez?

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

10 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

11 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

12 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

13 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

15 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

16 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

17 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

18 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

19

20 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
21 action on the following item:

22 **ORDINANCES FOR HEARING AND ADOPTION**

23 **CONSIDERATION:**

24 1. ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-07

25 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 334 TO

1 PLACE A MORATORIUM ON RENT INCREASES.)

2

3 CITY CLERK: There's one Ordinance on for
4 Adoption this evening.

5 It's an Ordinance Amending Ordinance
6 2020-07 Entitled An Ordinance Amending Chapter
7 334 to Place a Moratorium on Rent Increases.

8 Mayor, at this time would you like to take
9 public comment on this Ordinance?

10 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

11 Anyone wishing to comment at this time,
12 please step forward, state your name and address
13 for the record.

14 We spoke about this Ordinance quite a bit.
15 Not to go into anymore detail; Angelo's tired of
16 hearing it.

17 Okay.

18 CITY CLERK: Seeing -- seeing none.

19 May I have a motion to close public
20 comment?

21 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

22 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
23 Martinetti.

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

25 CITY CLERK: Second?

1 I'm sorry.

2 Second?

3 Oh, Commissioner Valdivia.

4 Thank you.

5 Commissioner Fernandez?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

8 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

9 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

11 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

12 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

13 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

14 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

15 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

16 May I have a motion to adopt?

17 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

18 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner

19 Martinetti.

20 Second?

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

22 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner

23 Valdivia.

24 Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

2 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

4 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

5 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

8 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

9 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

10

11 **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

12

13 CITY CLERK: Mayor, at this time would you
14 like to take public comment on any item
15 concerning government in the City of Union City?

16 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

17 Just before we do, just to put it on the
18 record again, I would just like to thank all our
19 first responders.

20 Our Union City Police Department in its
21 entirety.

22 Our Emergency Medical Services that have
23 done a tremendous job helping so many of the
24 people that had COVID-19.

25 Also, North Hudson Regional Fire and

1 Rescue.

2 A special thank you to our Department of
3 Public Works who has done a tremendous job
4 keeping our streets clean throughout this whole
5 entire COVID-19 pandemic; along with our Parks
6 Department that kept our public buildings -- some
7 of them open -- kept -- kept them clean.

8 A special thank you to Erin Knoedler and
9 Chief Luster for the tremendous job that they
10 have done throughout this whole entire ordeal. I
11 wouldn't be able to do it without them.

12 And just to also -- a special thank you --

13 I think sometimes that we -- we -- we can
14 maybe forget to thank people.

15 -- but thank the residents of Union City
16 for really looking out for each other, looking
17 out for their neighbors, and really following the
18 guidelines for the most part in Union City.

19 I mean during the height of the -- of the
20 pandemic, you really saw people come together and
21 help each other, check on their neighbors,
22 whether it was by Facebook or calling them on the
23 telephone or just checking with their neighbor
24 who lives next door to them.

25 And a special thank you to the

1 Commissioners and -- and to the volunteers who
2 have helped us deliver food, masks, supplies to
3 residents throughout Union City -- who's ever
4 called.

5 I mean up until today we delivered 250
6 families two bags of groceries each. And I'd
7 just like to thank everyone who's participated in
8 that.

9 It means a lot. It says a lot to our
10 community.

11 I know everybody's been involved in some
12 way. Lucio's been involved in some way.
13 Margie's been involved in some ways. Margie I
14 know is involved with the testing site. I know
15 Celin's out there delivering. I know that Wendy
16 was in the senior citizen buildings with the
17 testing. I know Lucio has helped us with social
18 media.

19 It's so, so important that we look out for
20 each other and we showed a concern for each
21 other. Not only during the pandemic but at all
22 times. But in Union City, when the need is
23 there, people come together. And I think that's
24 important to recognize. I really do.

25 But a special thank you to the volunteers,

1 seven days a week that are out there delivering
2 food and really helping us to get the message out
3 there and to get the food and whatever we're
4 trying to get out there -- flyers.

5 We'll be doing additional flyers also, just
6 to make sure people know about the two testing
7 sites. That's been going well.

8 I think we've been testing on -- on average
9 about 700 people a day.

10 Right, Erin?

11 In that range?

12 CITY CLERK: It's -- yeah.

13 MAYOR STACK: Six to 700 people a day.
14 We'd like to try to get that up to 800 people a
15 day.

16 We're asking everyone, whether you have
17 symptoms or not, please get tested.

18 Get your family tested.

19 Talk to your friends.

20 Let's everybody get tested. That's the way
21 we're going to defeat this virus.

22 Having said that, is there anyone who would
23 like to comment at this time, please --

24 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: (Indiscernible) --
25 comment.

1 MAYOR STACK: -- step forward, state your
2 name and address for the record.

3 Commissioner Valdivia?

4 MR. DILLON: Excuse me?

5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: (Indiscernible).

6 MR. DILLON: You have to step to the mic
7 here.

8 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Okay.

9 CITY CLERK: Here, Commissioner, if you
10 want to --

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Okay.

12 CITY CLERK: -- take mine?

13 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: No, I have --
14 (indiscernible) -- over there.

15 CITY CLERK: There's -- there's no mic over
16 there.

17 MR. DILLON: No, you got to come to the --

18 CITY CLERK: It's got to --

19 MR. DILLON: You got to come to the one of
20 these.

21 CITY CLERK: You can come here.

22 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Oh, --
23 (indiscernible).

24 Sorry.

25 MR. DILLON: Just so I can get you.

1 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: (Indiscernible) --

2 MAYOR STACK: Right -- right over here you
3 could go. Right by this one, Celin.

4 MR. AUTERI: Right here.

5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Over here?

6 MAYOR STACK: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: I just want to say
8 how proud I am of my Mayor. It's -- it's an
9 honor and privilege to serve you.

10 How proud I am of my Commissioners --
11 Margie Martinetti, Lucio Fernandez, and Wendy
12 Grullon.

13 We follow our Mayor. And he's been there
14 since the pandemic began.

15 And I appreciate everything you do for the
16 people, not only in Union City, but in the
17 District that you serve -- the 33rd District and
18 you go beyond that.

19 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: So I just you from
21 the bottom of my heart.

22 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, Celin.

23 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: It's easy to serve
24 in your Administration.

25 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

1 Thank you, Celin.

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Erin, thank you for
3 everything you do for helping the Mayor.

4 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

5 Thank you very much, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: The attorney, over
7 here, -- I'm sorry, forget your name right now
8 but thank you.

9 MR. AUTERI: We're good.

10 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: All right?

11 CITY CLERK: Thanks, Commissioner.

12 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Okay?

15 So I just wanted to put -- put that on
16 record.

17 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

18 Thank you, Celin.

19 Thank you, Commissioners.

20 Anyone wishing -- anyone wishing to
21 comment?

22 Any member of the public?

23 Anyone else wishing to comment at this
24 time?

25 Okay.

1 Seeing none.

2 Thank you very much.

3 And I think it's -- I -- I want to thank
4 the Commissioners for helping me to keep these
5 meetings live; that we do the meetings that we
6 actually come to the meeting, as opposed to doing
7 it by Zoom. There's a big difference.

8 I understand during the height of the
9 pandemic we had to do it by Zoom but there's a
10 big difference when you hold a meeting in person,
11 as to when you're holding it by Zoom.

12 I'm not big on that type of -- that type of
13 meeting; I believe in coming here.

14 Hopefully we'll be able to get back to
15 Commission meetings the way we always done them.

16 And -- and our Police Community meetings,
17 which I miss doing and the residents -- meeting
18 with the residents. Hopefully that will get
19 started soon.

20 Thank you very much, everyone.

21 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Mayor.

22 May I have a motion to close public
23 comment?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Motion.

25 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner

1 Fernandez.

2 Second?

3 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

4 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner

5 Grullon.

6 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

8 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

9 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

10 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

11 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

12 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

13 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: And Mayor Stack?

15 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

16 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

17

18 **ADJOURNMENT:**

19

20 CITY CLERK: There are no other items on
21 the agenda.

22 May I have a motion to adjourn?

23 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

24 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

25 Second?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

2 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
3 Fernandez.

4 Commissioner Fernandez?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

6 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

7 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

8 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

9 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

10 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

11 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

12 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

13 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

15

16 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded
17 at 7:34 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

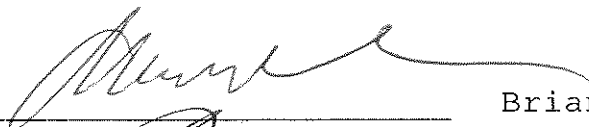
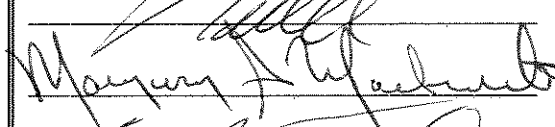
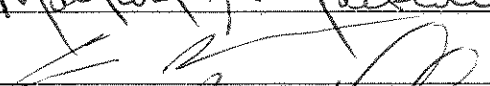
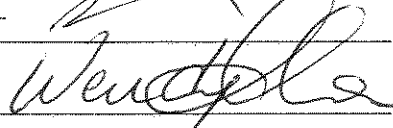
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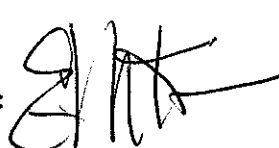
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Brian P. Stack
Lucio P. Fernandez
Maryury A. Martinetti
Celin J. Valdivia
Wendy A. Grullon

Board of Commissioners

Attest: 

Erin M. Knoedler,

City Clerk

1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY:

2 :

3 COUNTY OF ESSEX :

4

5 I, KAREN A. MARINO, assigned transcriber,
6 do hereby affirm that the foregoing is a true and
7 accurate transcript in the matter of the REGULAR
8 MEETING of the UNION CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
9 heard on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 and digitally
10 recorded.

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Karen A. Marino

AOC 493

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24 Monitored by: Kevin Dillon, Jr.

25 Proofread by: Deborah Dillon