

ORIGINAL

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

REGULAR MEETING :

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED

PROCEEDINGS

Bella Vista Apartments
522-22nd Street
Union City, New Jersey

Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Commencing at 7:03 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.
Corporation Counsel

GREGORY T. FARMER, ESQ.,
Attorney for the Union City
Alcohol Beverage Control Commission

Audio-Digital
Transcription Service, L.L.C.
audiot@aol.com

ADIS
Transcription Service

29 Oak Avenue
West Orange, N.J. 07052
(973) 669-1222
Fax: (973) 669-0855

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Scott W. Bazzani, Esq.
Attorney for La Parrilla Bar & Grill, LLC

I N D E X

	<u>PAGE</u>
CALL TO ORDER	4
SALUTE TO FLAG	4
ROLL CALL	4
APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES	5
CONSENT AGENDA	6
REGULAR AGENDA	9/11
OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD	12
LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS	14
La Parrilla Bar & Grill, LLC	15
Sai Prasad, Inc.	22
ADJOURNMENT	24

1 CITY CLERK: This is a Regular Public
2 Meeting of the Union City Board of Commissioners
3 being held on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021, at seven
4 p.m. at Bella Vista Apartments, 522 22nd Street,
5 Union City, New Jersey.

6 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7

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

10

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

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

19

20 **ROLL CALL:**

21

22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Fernandez?

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Here.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Here.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Here.

5 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

6 MAYOR STACK: Here.

7 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

8

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

11 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES -**

12 **REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 22, 2020.)**

13

14 CITY CLERK: The first item for approval is
15 the meeting minutes from December 22nd, 2020.

16 May I have a motion to approve?

17 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

18 MAYOR STACK: Second.

19 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
20 Martinetti.

21 Second by Mayor Stack.

22 Commissioner Fernandez?

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

4 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

5 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

8

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

11 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

12 (1) Resolution Approving the Payment of Claims

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

15 (3) Resolution Approving the Payment of Escrow
16 Refunds

17 (4) Resolution Approving the City Payroll for
18 December 19, 2020 through January 1, 2021

19 (5) Resolution Approving the Library Payroll
20 for December 19, 2020 through January 1, 2021

21 (6) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
22 Premium Monies Collected at the Tax Sale

23 (7) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of
24 Redemption Monies to Outside Lienholders

25 (8) Resolution Authorizing the Refund of a

1 Veterans Deduction)

2

3 CITY CLERK: There are eight items on the
4 Consent Agenda.

5 First is a Resolution Approving the Payment
6 of Claims.

7 Second is a Resolution Approving Payment of
8 Concurring Claims.

9 Third is a Resolution Approving the Payment
10 of Escrow Refunds.

11 Fourth is a Resolution Approving the City
12 Payroll for the period of December 19th, 2020
13 through January 1st, 2021.

14 The fifth is a Resolution Approving the
15 Library Payroll for the period of December 19th,
16 2020 through January 1st, 2021.

17 Sixth is a Resolution Authorizing Refund of
18 Premium Monies Collected at the Tax Sale.

19 Seventh is a Resolution Authorizing Refund
20 of Redemption Monies to Outside Lienholders.

21 Eighth is a Resolution Authorizing a
22 Refund of a Veterans Deduction.

23 Mayor, at this time, would you like to take
24 public on the Consent Agenda?

25 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

1 Anyone wishing to comment on the Consent
2 Agenda, please step forward.

3 State your name and address for the record.

4 That was -- the Consent Agenda was what the
5 Clerk just read into the record.

6 Seeing none.

7 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
8 public comment?

9 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

10 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
11 Martinetti.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

13 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
14 Fernandez.

15 Commissioner Fernandez?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

17 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

18 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

19 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

22 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

24 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

1 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to approve
2 all items on Consent?

3 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

4 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
5 Valdivia.

6 Second?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

8 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
9 Fernandez.

10 Commissioner Fernandez?

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

12 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

13 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

15 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

16 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

17 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

18 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

19 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

20 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

21

22 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
23 action on the following item:

24 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

25 1. RESOLUTION APPROVING A PAYMENT OF CLAIM FOR

1 THE HUDSON COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY.)

2

3 CITY CLERK: There are two items on the
4 Regular Agenda.

5 The first is a Resolution Approving a
6 Payment of Claim for the Hudson County
7 Improvement Authority.

8 May I have a motion to approve item 1?

9 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Motion.

10 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
11 Valdivia.

12 Second?

13 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Second.

14 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
15 Grullon.

16 Commissioner Fernandez?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

18 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

19 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

20 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

21 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

22 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti is
23 recusing.

24 And Mayor Stack?

25 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

2

3 (Whereupon, the Board discussed and took
4 action on the following item:

5 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

6 2. RESOLUTION APPROVING A PAYMENT OF CLAIM FOR
7 THE UNION CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION.)

8

9 CITY CLERK: The next is a Resolution
10 Approving a Payment of Claim for the Union City
11 Board of Education.

12 MAYOR STACK: Motion.

13 MR. AUTERI: Normally, Commissioners
14 Valdivia and Grullon would not vote on Board of
15 Ed matters.

16 However, tonight, the Board is invoking the
17 doctrine of necessity.

18 CITY CLERK: Motion made by Mayor Stack.

19 Second?

20 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.

21 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
22 Valdivia.

23 Commissioner Fernandez is recusing.

24 Commissioner Grullon?

25 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

1 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

2 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

3 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti is
4 recusing.

5 And Mayor Stack?

6 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

7 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

8

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

10

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

14 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

15 Anyone wishing to comment at this time,
16 please step forward. State your name and address
17 for the record.

18 Once again, I'd like to thank the
19 Commissioners for moving a hundred percent of our
20 meetings throughout the city.

21 Wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

22 Anyone wishing to comment?

23 Seeing none at this time.

24 CITY CLERK: May I have a motion to close
25 Public Comment?

1 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.
2 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
3 Martinetti.
4 Second?
5 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Second.
6 Second by Commissioner Valdivia.
7 Commissioner Fernandez?
8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.
9 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?
10 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.
11 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?
12 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.
13 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?
14 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.
15 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?
16 MAYOR STACK: Yes.
17 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

18 * * *

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2

3 (1) La Parrilla Bar & Grill, LLC

4 T/A Maria Mentiras

5 328 32nd Street

6 0910-33-030-015

7 (Scott Bazzani, Esq.)

8

9 (2) Sai Prasad, Inc.

10 T/A Bergenline Liquors

11 3819 Bergenline Avenue

12 0910-32-066-004

13 (Anthony Sarsano, Esq.)

14

15 CITY CLERK: At this time, we have liquor
16 license public hearings.

17 MR. FARMER: Yes.

18 Scott?

19 Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners.

20 We have two matters on your agenda.

21

22

* * *

23

24

25

1 LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2

3 (1) La Parilla Bar & Grill, LLC

4 T/A Maria Mentiras

5 328 32nd Street

6 0910-33-030-015

7 (Scott Bazzani, Esq.)

8

9 MR. FARMER: The first one is Maria

10 Mentiras at 328 32nd Street, and the licensee is

11 here, and along with her is her attorney, Mr.

12 Bazzani. Also present is Lieutenant Loaces

13 (sic).

14 This is a situation where there was a

15 response by the police -- really on two

16 occasions, both for noise. But on the second

17 noise complaint, they encountered two people who

18 were intoxicated.

19 I -- I've gone over the charges with Mr.

20 Bazzani and I've gone over the charges with

21 Lieutenant Loaces (sic).

22 And -- I said Loaces, I'm sorry, Lieutenant

23 Dunlay.

24 And we've agreed, which is consistent with

25 what we have done in the past over the pandemic

1 when the police go someplace and come across
2 somebody in violation of a couple of things, that
3 there will be a 30 day suspension; 20 days will
4 be served from January 18th to February 6th.

5 And the remaining ten days will be held in
6 abeyance for one year, so that if there's another
7 offense, that whatever the outcome of that
8 offense, there's ten days no matter what. Even
9 if you're acquitted, it's ten days.

10 Okay?

11 So, Mr. Bazzani is here.

12 As always, a condition of the plea is that
13 there be no application to the State to -- to
14 convert it into a monetary fine.

15 And secondly, that there will be no appeal.

16 MAYOR STACK: Mr. Bazzani, if you -- could
17 you just enter your appearance for the record?

18 MR. BAZZANI: Absolutely.

19 MAYOR STACK: Thank you.

20 MR. BAZZANI: From here, or do you want me
21 to go --

22 MAYOR STACK: You could come over. Maybe,
23 Greg, you could just slide over a little bit.

24 MR. BAZZANI: All right.

25 Good evening, everybody.

1 Scott Bazzani, B-A double Z-A-N-I.

2 I'm appearing on behalf of La Parrilla Bar
3 and Grill.

4 To my left and behind me is Maria Mentiras,
5 who I've gone over this matter extensively with.

6 MAYOR STACK: And you agree with the terms
7 that Mr. Farmer just represented, Scott?

8 MR. BAZZANI: I do. I do.

9 Client is cognizant of the penalties, were
10 we to go forward. There are some mitigating
11 issues, but we think that the -- what Mr. Farmer
12 is presenting to us is reasonable, in light of
13 the circumstances. The -- the main issue here is
14 noise. Client knows, we've discussed this
15 extensively, we've got to get the noise under
16 control.

17 What she wanted the Board to know, and
18 she's not saying this didn't occur on October 3rd,
19 is that there is a neighbor that constantly
20 calls, police come, don't issue a ticket.

21 So, she's not saying this didn't occur on
22 the date in question, but she does want Your
23 Honor to know, and all the people on the Board
24 that this is not a daily occurrence.

25 And this is one person that calls, and then

1 sometimes, there's a balancing test between the
2 city and her -- you know, the police are going to
3 have to do the right thing. If they see noise,
4 they have to issue a ticket. She understands
5 that. And she wants to work with the city going
6 forward.

7 MAYOR STACK: Sure.

8 MR. BAZZANI: This is obviously going to be
9 a great hardship to her, even though it -- you
10 know, it's only 20 days. It's going to be 20
11 days where she has to shut down and lose income,
12 which in this economic environment, is not an
13 easy thing.

14 Is that correct?

15 MS. MENTIRAS: Um hum.

16 MR. BAZZANI: Did you -- did you and I go
17 over this extensively, each and every allegation
18 in the complaint?

19 The October 3rd incident, as well as the
20 October 24th incident?

21 MS. MENTIRAS: Correct.

22 MR. BAZZANI: You realize, and in fact, I
23 told you, that you'd have a right to have a full
24 hearing here, bring in your witnesses, let it go
25 and tell them what's on your mind.

1 You had an opportunity to go back and forth
2 a little bit with Mr. Farmer and you feel that
3 you could live with this, should the Board
4 approve the recommendation that he's making?

5 MS. MENTIRAS: Yes.

6 MR. BAZZANI: You do it knowingly and
7 voluntarily.

8 MS. MENTIRAS: Yes.

9 MR. BAZZANI: All right.

10 I have nothing further.

11 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

12 I'll make a motion to approve.

13 CITY CLERK: Motion by Mayor Stack.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

15 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
16 Fernandez.

17 Commissioner Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

19 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

20 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

21 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

22 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

23 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

24 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

25 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

1 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

2 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

3 MAYOR STACK: Thank you very much.

4 MR. BAZZANI: Thank you, Mayor.

5 Appreciate it.

6 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, Mr. Bazzani.

7 MR. BAZZANI: Thank you.

8 I appreciate it.

9 MAYOR STACK: Thank you, sir.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. FARMER: Okay.

12 I'll see you Wednesday.

13 MR. BAZZANI: Yes.

14 MAYOR STACK: Just let the record reflect,

15 Mr. Farmer, when he spoke, he said Lieutenant

16 Loaces, Lieutenant David Dunlay.

17 MR. FARMER: Yes. I -- I --

18 MAYOR STACK: Just for the record. That's

19 all.

20 MR. FARMER: -- corrected myself.

21 MAYOR STACK: Just so they don't think --

22 MR. FARMER: I heard it too.

23 MAYOR STACK: Just so they don't think that

24 Loaces came back.

25 MR. FARMER: Quite frankly, I heard it,

1 | like everybody in the room heard it. So, I
2 | corrected it.

3 | * * *

4 |

5 |

6 |

7 |

8 |

9 |

10 |

11 |

12 |

13 |

14 |

15 |

16 |

17 |

18 |

19 |

20 |

21 |

22 |

23 |

24 |

25 |

1 LIQUOR LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2

3 (2) Sai Prasad, Inc.

4 T/A Bergenline Liquors

5 3819 Bergenline Avenue

6 0910-32-066-004

7 (Anthony Sarsano, Esq.)

8

9 MR. FARMER: The next one is Bergenline
10 Liquor.

11 They're represented by Mr. Sarsano, who
12 sent me a letter today advising me that for some
13 reason, he didn't articulate it, that he couldn't
14 make it tonight.

15 I've called Mr. Sarsano two or three times,
16 he hasn't called me back. I don't know if that
17 means anything other than he didn't call me back.

18 And the other thing, in a letter, he
19 indicated that his client was going to India for
20 about a month. So, I guess we'll be back here in
21 February.

22 A point of interest, this is the only
23 outstanding disciplinary hearing that we have.
24 So, for whatever.

25 And the only other liquor stuff that we

1 have are three or four transfers, two of which
2 are on for next Wednesday.

3 Okay?

4 MAYOR STACK: Okay.

5 Thank you, Mr. Farmer.

6 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Thank you.

7 MR. FARMER: All right.

8

9 * * *

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 ADJOURNMENT:

2

3 CITY CLERK: There are no other items on
4 the agenda, may I have a motion to adjourn?

5 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Motion.

6 CITY CLERK: Motion by Commissioner
7 Martinetti.

8 Second?

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Second.

10 CITY CLERK: Second by Commissioner
11 Fernandez.

12 Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Grullon?

15 COMMISSIONER GRULLON: Yes.

16 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Valdivia?

17 COMMISSIONER VALDIVIA: Yes.

18 CITY CLERK: Commissioner Martinetti?

19 COMMISSIONER MARTINETTI: Yes.

20 CITY CLERK: Mayor Stack?

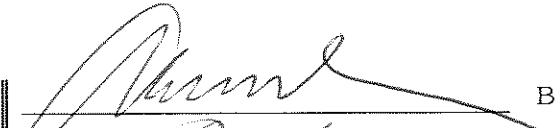
21 MAYOR STACK: Yes.

22 CITY CLERK: Thank you.

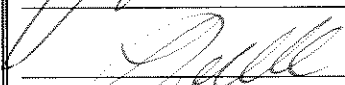
23

24 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded
25 at 7:12 p.m.)

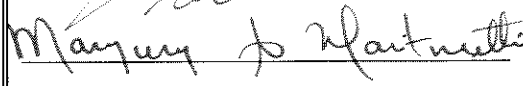
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



Brian P. Stack

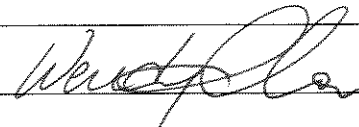


Lucio P. Fernandez



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, DEBRA A. KASZNIAK, 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, January 5, 2021 and digitally
10 recorded.

11

12

13

14

15

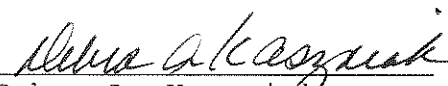
16

17

18

19

20


Debra A. Kaszniak
Certification No. 324

21

22

23

24 Monitored by: Kevin Dillon, Jr.

25 Proofread by: Deborah Dillon