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Any and all substantive documents are on file with the Borough Clerk

1920th REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2025 – YOUTH GOVERNMENT NIGHT

CALL TO ORDER:

I hereby call the Borough of Wood-Ridge Council meeting to order at _____ pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Will everyone please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo / Aidan Kelly
Council President:	Michele Mabel / Brielle Rivera
Councilperson:	Ezio Altamura / Anthony Cala
Councilperson	Dominick Azzolini / Luca Gadaletta
Councilperson	Philip Romero / Brooke Stellato
Councilperson	Michael Donato / Isabella Spina
Councilperson	Richard Wall / Thomas Byrne
Borough Attorney:	Paul Barbire / Henry Magnusson
Borough Clerk:	Gina Affuso / Sophia Lora
Borough Administrator:	Chris Eilert / Christopher Castellano

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

This meeting is being held in accordance with Public Law 1975 Chapter 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the “Sunshine Law”. The public meeting notice stating the date, time and place of this meeting was posted on the town bulletin board and the town website and was forwarded to The Record and the Star Ledger.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION:

None

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING:

None

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE:

None

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

None

PETITIONS:

None

BIDS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications and correspondence received are identified on this evening's agenda has been distributed to all Council for appropriate action.

REPORTS OF GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Aidan Kelly
Council Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair – Councilperson Thomas Byrne
Council Finance Committee Chair – Councilperson Isabella Spina
Council Fire Committee Chair – Councilperson Brooke Stellato
Council Public Information & Events Committee Chair – Councilperson Brielle Rivera
Council Police Committee Chair - Councilperson Anthony Cala
Council Public Works Committee Chair - Councilperson Luca Gadaletta

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Borough Administrator: Christopher Castellano
Borough Attorney: Henry Magnusson
Borough Auditor: Nico Altamura
Borough Clerk: Sophia Lora
Borough Planner: Marius Castillo
Borough Engineer: Jake Burke

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS:

Chief Financial Officer	Gianfranco Gentile
Construction Code Official	Gianna Sollitti
Emergency Management Coordinator	Ryleigh Lange
Fire Chief	Steven Turi
Fire Prevention Official	Gabriela Jones
Health Officer	Erin Kerr
Library Director	Alexis Pispitsos
Municipal Court Judge	Matthew Macchia
Police Chief	David Mordan
Public Works Superintendent	Corrado Scarimbolo
Purchasing Agent	Christina Scarimbolo
Recreation Director	Ava Gravina
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Natalie Turi
Safety Coordinator	Gavin Sikora
Tax Collector	AidaMarie Murray

FIRST HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Sarlo declares the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1. **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the February 19, 2025 Meeting.

2. **RESOLUTIONS:**

- 057-2025 Authorizing Vehicles and Equipment for Public Auction with GovDeals.
- 058-2025 Authorizing Mayor to Execute Contracts with 107 Productions for Sound, Lighting, Backline and Entertainers for Wood-Ridge Town Day.
- 059-2025 Approving Tax Appeal Settlement for Metro Storage.

3. **APPLICATIONS:**

- a. Becton Project Graduation on premise 50/50 and Tricky Tray on March 20, 2025 at the Fiesta.

All applications listed above have been approved by the Wood-Ridge Police Department.

4. **APPOINTMENTS:**

None

5. **HIRINGS:**

None

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by _____ moved to the adoption of all matters on the above **CONSENT AGENDA.**

Youth Roll Call: Rivera, Cala, Gadaletta, Stellato, Spina, Byrne

Council Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Sarlo declares the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

ADJOURNMENT:

Since there was no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____, moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote of the members of the Council present, the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge held on March 5, 2025 was duly adjourned at _____ p.m.

Minutes of the 1920th Regular Meeting of March 5, 2025 – Youth Government Night

CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Aiden Kelly called the Borough of Wood-Ridge Council meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Will everyone please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance

YOUTH ROLL CALL:

Mayor:	Aidan Kelly – present
Council President:	Brielle Rivera – present
Councilperson:	Anthony Cala – present
Councilperson	Luca Gadaletta – present
Councilperson	Brooke Stellato – present
Councilperson	Isabella Spina – present
Councilperson	Thomas Byrne – present
Borough Attorney:	Henry Magnusson present
Borough Clerk:	Sophia Lora – present
Borough Administrator:	Christopher Castellano – present

COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo – present
Council President:	Michele Mabel – present
Councilperson:	Ezio Altamura – present
Councilperson	Dominick Azzolini – present
Councilperson	Philip Romero – present
Councilperson	Michael Donato – present
Councilperson	Richard Wall – present
Borough Attorney:	Paul Barbire – present
Borough Clerk:	Gina Affuso – present
Borough Administrator:	Chris Eilert – present

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

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CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION:

None

Minutes of the 1920th Regular Meeting of March 5, 2025 – Youth Government Night

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING:

None

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE:

None

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

None

PETITIONS:

None

BIDS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications and correspondence received are identified on this evening's agenda has been distributed to all Council for appropriate action.

REPORTS OF GOVERNING BODY:

Mayor Aidan Kelly

I am very proud to be hosting Youth Government Night for the members of the Class of 2025. Approximately 700 students have participated in this program over the 26 Years that I have served as Mayor of Wood-Ridge. This is an important civic program that helps our High School Seniors learn about how local government operates. I want to congratulate all our Seniors who are here tonight. Please give them a round of applause! I also want to congratulate all the parents who are here to support our students. I ask all the students to please give your parents a round of applause! Lastly, I want to thank our school officials and faculty for the work they do every day to educate our students and I want to thank Borough Clerk Gina Affuso and her staff for planning and organizing this event.

Council Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair – Councilperson Thomas Byrne

I am Chairperson of the Borough Council Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Buildings & Grounds Committee has oversight over all Borough buildings, grounds, parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, open space and rights-of-way. We have received millions of dollars in grants to renovate parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and public buildings. In recent years, all of our athletic fields and playgrounds have been fully renovated. We have also built many brand-new facilities such as the Marshall Lane Playground, Kennedy Lane Playground, Kennedy Lane Dog Run, the Wood-Ridge Athletic Complex, and Wood-Ridge Square Park.

Minutes of the 1920th Regular Meeting of March 5, 2025 – Youth Government Night

Council Finance Committee Chair – Councilperson Isabella Spina

I am Chairperson of the Borough Council Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has oversight over all financial, budget, and administrative matters of the Borough. The Finance Committee works with the Borough Administrator to prepare the annual budget. Last year, the Mayor and Council produced a budget without any local tax increase for the 3rd year in a row. The Borough is in excellent financial shape with a AA Bond Rating and a very strong balance sheet with relatively low debt. Major cost savings have come from entering into shared services agreements with the Board of Education and other towns.

Council Fire Committee Chair – Councilperson Brooke Stellato

I am Chairperson of the Borough Council Fire Committee. The Fire Committee has oversight of the Wood-Ridge Fire Department, the Fire Prevention Bureau, and the Office of Emergency Management. The Fire Department is comprised of highly trained volunteers who answer the calls of their fellow Wood-Ridge residents. Their service saves the Borough taxpayers literally millions of dollars each year. The Fire Department has 1 ladder truck, 3 engines, and 1 rescue truck.

Council Public Information & Events Committee Chair – Councilperson Brielle Rivera

I am Chairperson of the Borough Council Public Information and Events Committee. The Public Information and Events Committee has oversight over the Borough's website and social media and coordinates the scheduling of different programs and events throughout the Borough. The Committee also has oversight over all the town's public events and the sub-committees that plan and conduct them. Our public events include the Memorial Day Service, the Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Clean-Up Day, the Town Day Street Festival, the 9-11 Service, the Senior Citizens Halloween Party, the Rag-a-Muffin Halloween Parade, Trunk-or-Treat, the Veterans Day Service, the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, the Christmas Tree Lighting, and the Christmas Toy Drive.

Council Police Committee Chair - Councilperson Anthony Cala

I am the Chairperson of the Borough Council Police Committee. The Police Committee has jurisdiction over the Police Department, drug and alcohol abuse education programs, the Municipal Court, and the Violations Bureau.

Before becoming a Police Officer, recruits must attend and graduate from the Bergen County Police Academy. At the Academy, recruits are trained and tested in subject areas such as physical fitness, use of weapons, criminal law, psychology, community relations, and patrol and investigative tactics.

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has a shared service agreement to locate our Municipal Court and Violations Bureau in the City of Garfield. Under this arrangement, we still appoint our own Municipal Court Judge, Prosecutor and Public Defender and keep all court fines and fees generated by Wood-Ridge.

Council Public Works Committee Chair - Councilperson Luca Gadaletta

I am Chairperson of the Borough Council Public Works Committee.

The Public Works Committee has oversight over the Department of Public Works and the Borough's sanitary sewer system, streets, sidewalks, and municipal parking lots. It also has jurisdiction over all contracts for garbage and recycling collection and all matters concerning public utility services such as natural gas, electric, street lighting, water, telephone, cable television and internet provided by third party vendors.

During the winter months, DPW responds to snow storms and does interior cleaning, painting and repairs in borough buildings. In early Spring, the DPW will begin the spring clean ups of all Borough parks and playgrounds. Throughout the spring and summer months, they will clean all storm sewer catch basins and all sanitary sewer lines. During the summer and fall months, the DPW will prune and elevate shade trees and will replace all damaged and faded street and traffic signs throughout the Borough.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Borough Administrator Christopher Castellano

The Borough Administrator is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Borough of Wood-Ridge. The Administrator reports to the Mayor and all department heads report to the Administrator. The Borough administrative staff provides valuable services to our residents and perform state mandated tasks in the areas such as Finance, Tax, Purchasing, Recreation, Health & Vital Statistics, Construction & Code Enforcement and the Municipal Court. All administrative staff members have been cross-trained in multiple departments and duties. By improving efficiency, utilizing technology and participating in shared services and joint purchasing programs we have been able to implement significant cost savings over the years.

Borough Attorney Henry Magnusson

The Borough Attorney must be a lawyer admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey. The Borough Attorney should have knowledge and experience in municipal law relating to public meetings, public records, fiscal affairs, bonding, insurance, employment, and land use. The Borough Attorney is responsible for providing legal advice to the Mayor and Council and other Borough Officials. The Borough Attorney prepares all contracts and ordinances that the Mayor and Council adopt and also works with the Borough's insurance carrier to defend any lawsuits filed against the town.

Borough Auditor Nico Altamura

The Borough Auditor is responsible for conducting the annual audit of the financial operations of the town, which is mandated by state law. The audit reviews the financial and managerial practices of Borough employees to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations. Areas that the audit reviews include accounting policies and procedures, purchasing policies and procedures, contract administration, cash management practices, payroll procedures, records management and fixed asset inventory. The Auditor assists the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer in preparing the annual budget and the annual financial statements. To be a municipal auditor in New Jersey, you must be an accountant who holds the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license and the Registered Municipal Accountant (RMA) license.

Borough Clerk Sophia Lora

The Borough Clerk has many responsibilities that are mandated by state law. The Borough Clerk serves as the Secretary to the Mayor and Council, the Secretary of the Municipal Corporation, the Custodian of all Borough Records, the Elections Official for local elected offices, and issues Borough permits and licenses, including liquor licenses. To be certified as a Borough Clerk, a person must pass a series of courses at Rutgers University and pass the State Registered Municipal Clerk Exam.

Borough Planner Marius Castillo

The Borough Planner must be a Licensed Professional Planner in the State of New Jersey. The Planner prepares the town's Master Plan which establishes the permitted land use patterns and development standards for all property within the town. The Planner also reviews all applications submitted to the Planning Board to make sure they comply with all land use and zoning regulations.

Borough Engineer Jake Burke

The Borough Engineer is responsible for designing plans and bid specifications for capital purchases such as fire trucks and dump trucks and for infrastructure projects such as road paving, drainage improvements, building renovations, and upgrades to parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. The Borough Engineer also prepares and submits grant applications to the state and county on behalf of the Borough. We also inspect all public construction projects and review all applications submitted to the Planning Board.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS:

Chief Financial Officer Gianfranco Gentile

To be a Chief Financial Officer you must have a bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration, attend and pass municipal finance courses at Rutgers University, and must pass the NJ Certified Municipal Finance Officer exam. The CFO must work with other town officials to perform their duties. The CFO works with the Borough Administrator to develop and administer the municipal budget. The CFO works with the Borough Auditor to prepare the annual financial statements. CFO works with the Bond Counsel to issue bonds which fund capital projects such as road paving and building renovations.

Construction Code Official Gianna Sollitti

The Construction Code Official is responsible for ensuring that new construction, additions and alterations are planned and constructed according to the International Building Code New Jersey Edition and the National Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) Code. The Construction Code Official supervises Sub-Code Officials who review plans and conduct inspections related to individual construction trades including Building, Fire, Plumbing, and Electric. The permit process begins with the complete review of all construction plans that the applicant submits with his permit application. Once the plans are approved, a permit is issued and the inspection process begins. If Inspectors find work was performed not to code, a stop work order is issued until the work is repaired and done properly. Inspectors are also on the look-out for work being performed without permits. When Inspectors find work being performed without permits, they issue fines and require the contractor to apply for permits.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ryleigh Lange

The Emergency Management Coordinator is required to direct emergency response during a public emergency officially declared by the Mayor or the Governor. Examples of state declared public emergencies are hurricanes, blizzards, and floods. Locally declared public emergencies include fires, downed utility wires, and collapses roads or sewers. Emergency Management Coordinators are appointed by the Mayor and are part of a statewide emergency management network that is headed by the Superintendent of the State Police.

Fire Chief Steven Turi

The Wood-Ridge Fire Department is an all-volunteer group of approximately 50 men and women who provide fire protection to our residents and their property. The Department also assists neighboring towns through mutual aid agreements. All fire fighters undergo training at the Bergen County Police and Fire Academy. We respond to approximately 350 calls per year, ranging from fire alarms, downed utility wires, vehicle accidents, and structural fires. Additionally, the members of the department spend many hours each month performing cleaning, maintenance, and training to ensure that we are ready to respond to emergencies.

Fire Prevention Official Gabriela Jones

The Fire Prevention Official must hold a Fire Official Certificate issued by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. The Fire Official is responsible for enforcing the state fire code in all public and commercial buildings and in multi-family residential buildings. The purpose of the state fire code is to provide for the safety of all people occupying a building and of all fire fighters entering a building if a fire occurs.

Health Officer Erin Kerr

The Health Officer is the head of the Bureau of Public Health which is part of the Board of Health. The Bureau of Public Health is responsible for pest and animal control, infectious disease control, and performing sanitary inspections and issuing licenses to all businesses and public facilities that handle or prepare food. The Health Officer is assisted by health inspectors, public health nurses, and animal control officers. Like many small towns, Wood-Ridge utilizes a shared services agreement with the Bergen County Health Department to provide these personnel.

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Library Director Alexis Pispitos

The Wood-Ridge Memorial Library offers many services to residents beyond the traditional services of circulating books and housing reference materials. The library also has collections of movies and periodicals and offers access to research databases and passes to museums. The library offers classes to assist those searching for a job or learning English as a second language. The library also hosts educational programs for children and families and cultural programs for all residents.

Municipal Court Judge Matthew Macchia

Municipal Court Judges are appointed by the Mayor and Council but report to the Presiding Municipal Court Judge of each county who then reports to the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court for the county. Municipal Court Judges are allowed to maintain private law practices but may not engage in matters related to criminal law. Municipal Courts hear cases for vehicular moving violations, disorderly persons offenses, petty disorderly persons offenses and violations of municipal ordinances.

Police Chief David Mordan

As Police Chief, I am responsible for managing the Wood-Ridge Police Department and all of its personnel which include sworn police officers, class 3 special officers, communications dispatchers, crossing guards, and administrative clerks. The Department is organized into 4 Bureaus which are Patrol, Detective, Administration, and Internal Affairs. I am very proud that our department is accredited by the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, which means that the Wood-Ridge Police Department ranks as being among the top 25% of departments in the state. Each year, our officers undergo hundreds of hours of advanced academic and professional training. The Department strives to be engaged and involved with residents in our community which is a major reason why our community has a low crime rate and is considered a safe place to live.

Public Works Superintendent Corrado Scarimbolo

The employees of the Department of Public Works DPW are organized into 4 different divisions: Operations, Buildings, Shade Tree, and Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance. The DPW performs a multitude of tasks including snow plowing, filling potholes, painting curbs, replacing street signs and pruning trees. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all public buildings and grounds including landscaping, painting and cleaning. They also maintain the Borough's storm and sanitary sewer systems by cleaning catch basins, servicing the pump stations and jetting sewer lines. Perhaps their most important function is responding to emergencies such as hurricanes, blizzards and sewer back-ups.

Purchasing Agent Christina Scarimbolo

The Purchasing Agent is responsible for drafting policies regulating the purchasing of goods and services for all Borough Departments and for supervising all public bids and capital purchases. To be a Qualified Purchasing Agent you must pass 4 courses at Rutgers and pass the state exam. Under New Jersey Law, a Qualified Purchasing Agent is authorized to enter into purchase agreements for goods and services that either cost less than the public bid threshold or are covered under a state contract.

Recreation Director Ava Gravina

The Recreation Director has many responsibilities including performing the administrative functions for youth recreation programs, scheduling all Borough and Board of Education athletic and recreation facilities, and planning and organizing activities for the senior citizen groups. Some of the administrative functions include accepting registration forms and fees, enforcing rules and policies, arranging for training, certification and background checks for coaches. Senior citizen activities include shopping trips on the senior bus, exercise classes, and holiday social functions. The Recreation Director is also responsible for planning and running the summer recreation program which has over 400 children enrolled each year and employs over 30 counsellors.

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Registrar of Vital Statistics Natalie Turi

The Registrar is the head of the Bureau of Vital Statistics which is part of the Board of Health. The Bureau of Vital Statistics is responsible for issuing marriage licenses, death certificates, birth certificates, burial permits and dog and cat licenses. The Registrar is assisted by a Deputy Registrar and Alternate Deputy Registrars. These positions are filled by staff from the Borough Clerk's office. Registrars must be certified by the New Jersey Department of Health.

Safety Coordinator Gavin Sikora

The Safety Coordinator schedules and supervises safety training for all Borough employees. The Safety Coordinator also conducts safety inspections of all Borough facilities, including parks and playgrounds, and files reports with the South Bergen Joint Insurance Fund to make sure the Borough is compliant with all safety, training, and insurance requirements.

Tax Collector AidaMarie Murray

The Tax Collector is responsible for billing and collecting real estate taxes on behalf of the School District, the Library, the County, and the Town. Property taxes are paid on a quarterly basis to fund our local public schools, the library, county government operations such as health and human services and county road maintenance, and local government operations such as garbage collection and police and fire protection. To be a Certified Tax Collector you must attend and pass required courses at Rutgers University and pass a state exam.

FIRST HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Kelly declared the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

Patrick DiRoma of 115 Truman Drive asked the council to pass a resolution supporting legislation at the state level to charge fees to oil and energy companies for causing climate change. Mayor Sarlo stated that it has always been the position of the Borough Council to not take positions on federal or state government issues and to only make decisions and take actions on issues that impact the local level of government for which the Borough Council has jurisdiction. The Mayor explained that this practice does not pass judgment on the importance or merits of a federal or state issue, but just that the resident's request relates to a national policy issue that the Borough Council has no jurisdiction over.

With no other citizens wishing to speak, the Hearing of Citizens was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the February 19, 2025 Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 057-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC AUCTION WITH GOVDEALS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wood-Ridge has determined that certain personal property as described on the attached schedule is no longer needed for public purpose; and

WHEREAS, various services conduct auctions for such purpose from time to time; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 requires that all such personal property be sold at public sale to the highest bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The attached schedule of Borough property is hereby declared to be surplus and no longer needed for public purposes; and
2. The Borough will auction said surplus at the first available auction conducted by Gov.Deals; and
3. The Borough reserves the right to reject any and all bids if it determines such rejection to be in the public interest;
4. Successful bidders shall be responsible for removing any vehicles and/or equipment within 48 hours of the public auction. All items are sold “as is” and all sales are final.

Schedule of Vehicles and equipment to be listed for auction:

1. 2011 Ford 450 VIN#: 1FDF6LT6R4DA2448

RESOLUTION NO. 058-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH 107 PRODUCTIONS FOR SOUND, LIGHTING, BACKLINE AND ENTERTAINERS FOR WOOD-RIDGE TOWN DAY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wood-Ridge and 107 Productions desire to enter into three agreements in order to provide sound, lighting, backline and entertainers for Wood-Ridge Town Day on June 8,2025; and

WHEREAS, the agreements to be executed by the Borough of Wood-Ridge and 107 Productions for the purposes hereinabove described is annexed hereto and is made a part of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk of the Borough of Wood-Ridge are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Agreements. Said agreements shall not exceed \$8,500.00.

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2. This contract is awarded pursuant to appropriate Law of the State of New Jersey specifically but not by way of limitation, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq. as well as any other pertinent statutes appertaining thereto.

3. If applicable a Certificate of Availability of Funds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57 has been certified to by the Chief Finance Officer and is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

4. If applicable funds are subject to an appropriation by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge and will be provided by the local finance office when appropriated.

RESOLUTION NO.: 059-2025
RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT FOR METRO STORAGE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge have been advised of the proposed settlement of a Tax Appeal filed on behalf of Metro Storage WR, LLC under Docket Nos.: 007533-2019, 009818-2020, 008007-2021, 005981-2022, 005937-2023 and 005465-2024 for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised as to the merits of the subject Tax Appeals by legal counsel, expert appraisal personnel hired by the Borough as well as the Borough Tax Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeals settlement components are as set forth in Schedule "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Wood-Ridge to settle the subject Tax Appeals in accordance with the settlement proposal set forth hereinabove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge that settlement of the said Tax Appeals be finalized in accordance with Schedule "A" attached and with respect to same, the Mayor, Borough Clerk and/or any other appropriate official is hereby authorized to perform any act in order to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Certificate of Availability of Funds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-57 has been certified to by the Chief Finance Officer and is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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APPLICATIONS:

- a. Becton Project Graduation on premise 50/50 and Tricky Tray on March 20, 2025 at the Fiesta.

All applications listed above have been approved by the Wood-Ridge Police Department.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

HIRINGS:

None

Motion: Councilperson Wall, seconded by Altamura moved to the adoption of all matters on the above
CONSENT AGENDA.

Youth Roll Call: Rivera yes, Cala yes, Gadaletta yes, Stellato yes, Spina yes, Byrne yes

Council Roll Call: Mabel yes, Altamura yes, Azzolini yes, Romero yes, Donato yes, Wall yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilperson Altamura reminded all the Seniors here this evening to sign up for the Memorial Foundation Scholarship which is online on the Borough website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Sarlo recognized the Superintendent Tony Albro, Principal Sylvia Raguseo and Vice Principal Marc Sinclair. Mayor Sarlo made a statement regarding the incident at CE Doyle yesterday. A heater that was being used to warm cement was knocked over and ignited some materials which caught fire. The workers immediately extinguished the fire and pulled the alarms. When a fire alarm is called on a school, it is automatically called as a 2nd alarm. WR Fire Chief being cautious called in a 3rd alarm to the fire house to make sure resources were available if needed. The children were evacuated safely and once the WR Fire Chief called the scene safe, the children were brought back to their classes to retrieve their belongings. We met with the contractors this morning to review any issue that went wrong. We reiterated that safety is the first priority above the speed of the completion of the project.

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SECOND HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Kelly declared the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

Mayor Kelly asked Superintendent Tony Albro to say a few words.

Mr. Albro thanked the Mayor and Council for putting this evening together every year. I want you all to realize how important you all are in the community. Many of the volunteers and employees of the town are not only longtime residents, but were also once students here in Wood-Ridge and have chosen to give back to the community. These people have chosen careers in government and so can you. This town is yours as long as you want it to be. You are fortunate to have a community to support you in whatever you choose to do. Good luck to you all.

With no citizens wishing to speak, the Hearing of Citizens was closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Since there was no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Altamura, seconded by Councilperson Romero moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote of the members of the Council present, the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge held on March 5, 2025 was duly adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Affuso, Borough Clerk