

The Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Butler Mayor and Council was opened by Mayor Martinez who indicated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act having been duly advertised and posted in Borough Hall and on the Borough Website.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Martinez, Councilman Fox, Councilman Meier, Councilwoman Morley, Councilman Piccirillo and Council President Verdonik

ABSENT: Calvi

Motion to excuse the absence of Councilman Calvi by Fox, Second by Meier and All In Favor.

ALSO PRESENT: James Lampmann, Borough Administrator; Christopher Woods, Office of the Borough Attorney and Brandi Greco, Borough Clerk.

**RESOLUTION(S)**

**2023-122A** Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of a New Regular Police Officer

Moved: Verdonik

Second: Fox

All if favor

**Discussion** – 2024 Appointments: Brandi Greco opened discussion regarding the 2024 appointments. Most vacancies were filled with a few still waiting confirmation.

**Discussion** – Non-Union Salaries: James Lampmann inquired if Council would be giving non-union employees the same increase that the unions received. Council agreed. Council also said they would like to change the Ordinance so that Mr. Lampmann is eligible for a raise as well since he has not received one in 5 years.

**Discussion** – Tri Boro Parade: Mayor Martinez said this year they are extending the route and will be marching from Butler Park to Anderson field. It will be on a Saturday in April.

**Discussion** – International Towing: Police are hesitant in approving them as a tower this year because there were many issues with their response time, reliability and availability this past year. Mr. Woods advised we put them on notice and give them a chance to present their case at the next meeting.

**Discussion** – Western Ave Basketball and Pickleball Courts: Mr. Lampmann said he received the quote for the project. Mayor Martinez said he was told that the recently installed Bloomingdale courts are not being used very often so maybe we should consider cutting out the pickleball portion which would save appx. \$300K. Mr. Lampmann reminded all that these items need to be put in the budget, as none of this was submitted for the 2024 budget. In addition to the courts and equipment, we need to consider survey work, engineering, grading, drainage, lighting, parking. Councilman Meier inquired about using Stonybrook but Mr. Lampmann explained no impervious coverage allowed within 300' of the stream so it can't be paved.

**OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Brandi Greco announced we would move to open public discussion at this time as multiple residents were asking if they could speak regarding the courts. Mayor Martinez opened the meeting to the public.

Steve Regis from 55 Roosevelt stated the former courts attracted excessive noise, drug dealers and people urinating in public. He is concerned about what we are going to do to prevent this from reoccurring.

Ernest Cusano from 29 Guenter St. said he is in full support of the basketball courts and is willing to help fundraise. He agrees we need to keep it safe. He would like to see 3 on 3 tournaments held there and could be used to raise money. He said he believes many residents would donate for the cause.

Councilman Fox inquired if we can use Bloomingdale courts since we do so many other shared services.

Tara Wramage from 14 Woodland came forward and said she is in support of having basketball courts in town.

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Mr. Lampmann said the key would be locking it up at night to keep them safe and clean. Mayor Martinez doesn't think that or the drug dealing would be an issue. Mr. Lampmann said based on the activities at the park behind Borough Hall, its necessary.

Councilman Meier inquired what about school property but Councilman Piccirillo said the Board of Education was already approached and said they do not want it on their property.

Council President Verdonik clarified councilmembers are not opposed to the courts, we just need to find the right location and we need the finances of course. All council agreed they want to see this work, but the location is the most important aspect and biggest obstacle.

Seeing no one else come forward to speak, a motion was made to close the public portion of the meeting.  
Moved: Fox Second: Morley  
All in favor

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

Brandi Greco asked if Council would like to support BHS with a yearbook ad again. All agreed. The photo will be taken at the re-organization meeting in January.

Mr. Lampmann said he had two items for discussion.

Mayor Martinez excused himself at 7:30pm to attend a personal event.

Mr. Lampmann continued and said he was contacted by the contractor for the Rt. 23 bridge project. They would like to propose a 4 lane temporary bridge rather than the 3 lane bridge with a movable barrier that would have to be relocated twice a day. He is looking for a letter of support from the Borough and we are happy to provide one as this is a much more sensible plan, both financially and for traffic prevention.

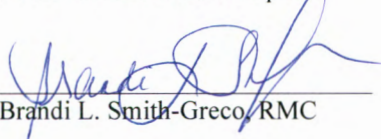
Mr. Lampmann said he received a complaint regarding a property owner "renting" a portion of their property to store a large motor home. He said this should be taken into consideration as we update our ordinances. Council and Mr. Woods said that this loophole definitely needs to be addressed to prevent this.

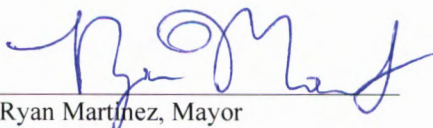
Councilman Piccirillo inquired whether Council would be interested in bringing back Butler Day but having it run by an outside company. He met someone at the League of Municipalities that does this type of planning. Council President Verdonik said it is an extremely expensive day considering the lack of turn-out we typically get. Councilman Meier inquired about closing off Main Street like they do in Boonton or Warwick but all agreed we do not have enough stores to attract that volume of business. We also do not have the detour ability like those towns and business owners will suffer. Councilman Piccirillo said he would get a price from the vendor before we consider any further involvement.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved: Meier Second: Piccirillo  
All in favor

ADJOURNMENT: 7:43 pm

  
Brandi L. Smith-Greco, RMC

  
Ryan Martinez, Mayor

Adopted: January 16, 2024

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**BOROUGH OF BUTLER  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023 -122 A**

**AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BUTLER TO HIRE  
A NEW REGULAR POLICE OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, due to the retirement of a police officer, and in order to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public at large, the Butler Borough Council has determined that it is necessary to hire a police officer for the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 40-3 of the "Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Butler," governs the procedure relating to application for, and appointment to, the position of police officer within the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 11A:4-1.3 authorizes the appointment of entry level police officers who have not passed a Civil Service Examination, but who have successfully completed a Basic Course for Police Officers at a school approved and authorized by the New Jersey Police Training Commission

**WHEREAS**, after careful consideration the following individual, Lauren Parak, was appointed to the position of Police Officer for the Borough of Butler temporarily effective September 18, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the permanent employment of Lauren Parak shall be conditioned upon her graduation from the Morris Public Safety Training Academy and passing all applicable Borough requirements and shall become effective December 6, 2023 as long as all requirements are met; and

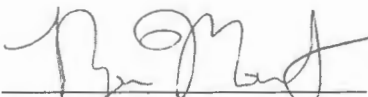
**WHEREAS**, the Butler Borough Council believes that the hiring of the new police officer as referenced above is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Borough's residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Butler, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the individual referenced above is hereby appointed to serve as a full-time regular police officer for the Borough of Butler, contingent upon the conditions set forth in this Resolution.
2. That the salary associated with this new hire shall be set in accordance with the agreement in place on her temporary appointment date of September 18, 2023, and adjusted once she successfully receives NJPTC certification.
3. That all other terms and conditions of employment relating to the new hire shall be as set forth in the existing Agreement between the Borough of Butler and the Butler Police Association.
4. That all appropriate Borough officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions in furtherance of the intentions set forth in this Resolution.
5. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to each of the following:
  - a. Appointee Lauren Parak;
  - b. Police Chief Scott Ricker;
  - c. Chief Financial Officer James Kozimor

Adopted: December 5, 2023

  
Brandi L. Smith-Greco, Borough Clerk

  
Ryan Martinez, Mayor