A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD HELD IN THE SYDNEY V. STOLDT, JR. COURT ROOM OF THE RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, 131 NORTH MAPLE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY, ON MAY 14, 2025 AT 7:30 P.M.

1. <u>CALL TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL – FLAG SALUTE</u>

Mayor Vagianos called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. At roll call, the following were present: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd and Mayor Vagianos. Also present were Keith Kazmark, Village Manager; Heather Mailander, Village Clerk; and Matthew Rogers, Village Attorney.

Mayor Vagianos led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. <u>ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS</u>

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Bills, Claims, and Vouchers, and Statement of Funds on Hand as of April 30, 2025, be accepted as submitted. Councilmember Mortimer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Council minutes of March 26, April 1, April 2, April 9, and April 23, 2025, having been reviewed by the Village Council and now available in the Village Clerk's Office, be approved as submitted. Councilmember Weitz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

4. **PROCLAMATIONS**

A. RECOGNIZE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN GARDENERS OF RIDGEWOOD

Mayor Vagianos asked the Village Councilmembers to join him on the floor, as well as members of The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood. Deputy Mayor Perron read the following Proclamation:

The members of The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood, including Vice President Maria Gilosa, Barbara Ferrante, Cynthia Halaby and Sharon Gilsenan, thanked the Village for this honor. The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood has approximately 50 members. There was a resounding round of applause. Mayor Vagianos announced that Mr. Kazmark recently got married at the Butterfly Garden behind Lester Stable, which has been beautifully decorated by The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood.

B. RECOGNIZE OPENING DAY OF THE JAMES ROSE CENTER, A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL RESOURCE

Councilmember Mortimer read the following Proclamation:

Kevin Rose (no relation to James Rose) stated that he is the Associate Director of The James Rose Center. He thanked the Village Council and the Ridgewood community for their ongoing support. Mr. Rose encouraged residents to visit The James Rose Center at 506 East Ridgewood Avenue. Mr. Rose stated that on May 17, 2025, there will be guided tours and treetop yoga. He said that further information can be obtained from their website at www.jamesrosecenter.org. There was a resounding round of applause.

C. PROCLAIM MAY 18-24, 2025 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Councilmember Weitz read the following Proclamation:

Fire Chief John Judge thanked the Village Council, Mr. Kazmark, and Ms. Mailander for their support, as well as the men and women who make up the Ridgewood Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Ridgewood. Chief Judge said that there is an EMS crisis in the State of New Jersey, but it is a non-issue in Ridgewood. Mayor Vagianos added that when the volunteer crisis hit and the Village lost its ambulance corps, Ridgewood residents never noticed, because the Fire Department's EMS members showed up every day to help the community, and it was a seamless transition. There was a resounding round of applause.

D. PROCLAIM MAY 2025 AS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Councilmember Winograd read the following Proclamation:

Councilmember Winograd stated that her brother was in the United States Navy. Commander Lou Francis thanked the Village Council for their support of American Legion Post 53 and of all veterans. Commander Francis reminded everyone about their Memorial Day service which will be held on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., which he said will be American Legion Post 53's 106th consecutive Memorial Day service held in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square. In addition, this Saturday at Valleau Cemetery at 9:00 a.m., American Legion Post 53 will be placing flags by the gravesites of approximately 1,000 veterans, in collaboration with local scouting organizations and other youth groups. There was a resounding round of applause.

Mayor Vagianos and the Village Councilmembers returned to the dais.

E. PROCLAIM JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH

Mayor Vagianos stated that Pride Day will be celebrated on June 17, 2025 in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, commencing at 1:00 p.m. and lasting all day. The Ridgewood Guild has moved their Spring Marketplace to the same day as Pride Day, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a bouncy house for children, musical entertainment, and lots of vendors. Mayor Vagianos read the following Proclamation, after which, there was a resounding round of applause:

:

F. PROCLAIM JUNE 1, 2025 AS NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS' DAY Deputy Mayor Perron read the following Proclamation, after which, there was a resounding round of applause:

G. PROCLAIM JUNE 6, 2025 AS NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY
Councilmember Winograd read the Proclamation, after which, there was a resounding round of applause:

5. <u>COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC</u>

Dana Glazer, a resident of Ridgewood, said that he is concerned about the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and how these actions can affect Ridgewood. He said that there is a grave trend of ICE seeking cooperation with local police departments, in terms of detaining people. Mr. Glazer feels that it is important to address this issue at this time. The courts, including the Supreme Court, have found some of these deportations to be illegal, as due process has been ignored. There is currently a detention center in Newark, New Jersey, which was allegedly put there illegally. When the Mayor of Newark visited the detention center last Friday to address this illegality, he was arrested. Mr. Glazer said that Federal law allows this sort of visitation to occur by members of the government. He stated that people involved in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United States Capitol Building, who have been pardoned, are now working with ICE to detain people, which he stated also appears to be highly illegal.

Mr. Glazer stated that these conclusions point to the fact that ICE is consistently working outside of the bounds of the law, due process, and the United States Constitution. He is concerned that eventually ICE agents will seek cooperation with the Ridgewood Police Department in detaining Ridgewood residents, based upon trumped-up charges, without a judicial warrant or proper identification. Mr. Glazer said that since 2018, the Immigrant Trust Directive has limited the information New Jersey police officers can share with Federal and civil immigration agents. This directive also prevents officers from detaining people, based upon suspected or actual immigration status.

Mr. Glazer asked whether ICE agents have already reached out to the Ridgewood Police Department for their cooperation and, if so, whether or not the Police Department has addressed this issue. If ICE has not yet contacted the Ridgewood Police, Mr. Glazer asked how the Ridgewood Police plan on responding to ICE. In the past, Village Attorney Matthew Rogers has been asked similar questions, and he responded that the Village has to comply with the law. However, Mr. Glazer asked what the Ridgewood Police will do when they are asked to comply with an agency that has proven itself to be seemingly working outside of the law. Mr. Glazer said that Ridgewood residents need assurance that they will be protected from such cooperation with ICE. He said that other New Jersey municipalities have passed resolutions in favor of protecting immigrants' rights, and the rights of all citizens, against unlawful detainment and deportation. Mr. Glazer said that he and others are asking the Village to adopt a similar resolution.

There were no further public comments.

Addressing Mr. Glazer's concerns, Mr. Kazmark stated that Village officials have had robust discussions regarding the issues discussed by Mr. Glazer, since last fall. He said that while the members of the Ridgewood Police Department report to Mr. Kazmark and the Village Council, they are also held accountable to the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. Mr. Kazmark stated

that it is common knowledge that the current New Jersey Attorney General is not aligned with the policies of the current administration in Washington, D.C. However, all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey must follow the guidelines set forth by the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Kazmark stated that, in an effort to reassure the public, Captain Glenn Ender of the Ridgewood Police Department will speak this evening, regarding the communications which have occurred between the Attorney General's Office and the Ridgewood Police Department.

Captain Ender confirmed that the Ridgewood Police Department follows the guidelines set forth by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. In 2018, the Attorney General's Office issued the Immigrant Trust Directive, which was revised in 2019. This directive is designed to strengthen the trust between New Jersey law enforcement agencies and the diverse immigrant population in New Jersey. It limits the types of voluntary assistance between Municipal Police Departments and State Police Departments with ICE. Captain Ender stated that New Jersey Police Officers cannot stop, question, arrest, search or detain any individuals based solely upon their actual or suspected immigration status. They cannot ask about the immigration status of any individual, unless doing so is necessary to aid the ongoing investigation of a serious offense. They cannot participate in ICE's civil immigration enforcement operations, and they cannot provide ICE with access to State or local law enforcement resources, including equipment, office space, databases, or property. Captain Ender said that every member of the Ridgewood Police Department has been educated regarding the terms of the Immigrant Trust Directive from the Attorney General's Office, and they follow this directive accordingly.

Mayor Vagianos thanked Captain Ender for explaining how the Ridgewood Police Department has been guided by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, regarding any requests from ICE.

Mayor Vagianos noted that there was a person who wished to speak via hybrid access, stating that their hand had been "raised" intermittently during public comments, so he reopened public comments so that person could speak.

Denise Lima, a resident of Ridgewood, stated that she was very pleased about all of the Proclamations which were read this evening. She said that The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood are a hidden gem in Ridgewood, and that many people do not realize how much they do to beautify the Village.

Ms. Lima indicated that there have been three car accidents, within the past two weeks, at the intersection of Northern Parkway and East Glen Avenue. She stated that people traveling east on East Glen Avenue are speeding to get to the entrance to Route 17. After these cars travel past the Maple Avenue traffic light on East Glen Avenue, the first "25 MPH" speed sign is about half a mile away, one block from Travell Elementary School. Ms. Lima said that these cars are flying down East Glen Avenue and do not realize that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Ms. Lima

said that Northern Parkway is a "cut through" for all of the Ridgewood High School students. She emphasized that this intersection is dangerous, and that something needs to be done about it.

Ms. Lima stated that she and other residents have repeatedly asked for an inventory of the Village's fleet, and that inventory has still not been received. She would like to take a look at the inventory, especially given the fact that the Village Council has approved a resolution awarding a contract for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 (Resolution #25-241), which is from a vendor in Clifton. She said that she cannot understand why Village employees should have to travel all the way to Clifton, where the vendor is located, to fill up their tanks.

Regarding Resolution #25-246 pertaining to the award of a contract in an amount not to exceed \$345,000.00 for removal of abandoned underground storage tanks on North Walnut Street, Ms. Lima said that it was her understanding that the original owners of this parcel (former Town Garage property) were going to be responsible for the cost of removing these tanks, rather than Ridgewood taxpayers.

Ms. Lima said that she attended the latest Fields Committee meeting, and she said that she was very clear in expressing her ideas about future usage of the Zabriskie-Schedler house, and she wondered why nobody seems to have heard her. Ms. Lima stated that Village officials should follow the example of what was done with the T. Thomas Fortune House in Red Bank, which has a similar layout to the Zabriskie-Schedler house. The T. Thomas Fortune House is being used productively and is generating revenue. Ms. Lima said that the Village could partner with the Old Paramus Church and The Schoolhouse Museum to store cultural artifacts.

Regarding the development of the Schedler property, Ms. Lima spoke about the beautiful landscape architectural work performed by the Olmstead brothers, who designed Central Park in New York City and Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne. Ms. Lima spoke about the historical house in Goffle Brook Park, and stated that there is no artificial turf field located next to this historical house. Instead, there is a grass baseball field that was elegantly designed to match the aesthetics of the historical house. The artificial turf field that was installed in Goffle Brook Park is hidden from neighbors and the roadway, and is nowhere near the historical house.

There were no further public comments.

Mr. Kazmark noted that Captain Ender made some notes regarding Ms. Lima's suggestion about the additional installation of a speed sign on East Glen Avenue, so Mr. Kazmark said he was confident that Captain Ender would look into the matter. Mr. Kazmark said that Richard Calbi, Director of Operations and Ridgewood Water, is working on developing an inventory of the Village fleet, and the Village has recently submitted its fleet inventory to the Bergen County

Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). A presentation will be given before the Village Council sometime this summer regarding the Village's fleet inventory.

With regard to Resolution #25-246 authorizing Change Order No. 2 for \$345,400.00 for removal of the abandoned underground storage tanks at North Walnut Street, Mr. Kazmark stated that these tanks are not located on the Town Garage property, but rather are located on the adjacent North Walnut Street parking lot property, where the former Texaco gas station used to be situated. The North Walnut Street parking lot is owned by the Village; therefore, the cost for the work on this property is under the purview of the Village.

Councilmember Mortimer thanked Ms. Lima for informing the Village Council that another car accident occurred at the intersection of Northern Parkway and East Glen Avenue. He said that there is a meeting of the Citizens Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) tomorrow night, in the Garden Room at Village Hall, and he encouraged Ms. Lima to attend that meeting to express her concerns. Councilmember Mortimer said that he will also broach the topic of this dangerous intersection at the meeting. He stated that some allocation of funds has been made in the 2025 Capital Budget for the purchase of additional pedestrian-activated crosswalk devices, which are slated to be installed on East Glen Avenue.

Addressing Ms. Lima's comments regarding the future use of the Zabriskie-Schedler house, Councilmember Winograd said that she did hear Ms. Lima's suggestions during the Fields Committee meeting, particularly using the house as a museum. She said that she has met with the Bergen County Historical Society, but having them use the house would not generate any revenue for the Village. Councilmember Winograd said that she would welcome any ideas for public usage of the house, rather than just using the house for storage of historical items.

6. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kazmark gave a big shoutout to the members of the Ridgewood Fire Department, since they have now trained 100 people in CPR techniques, including Village staff members, committee members, and community members. He spoke about a near tragedy that occurred during the Ridgewood Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board's meeting held on January 23, 2024, when Richard Brooks suffered a heart attack. His life was saved due to the quick and heroic CPR performed by Stacey Antine and Julia Buckley, who provided compressions until emergency personnel arrived. After this event, Mr. Kazmark said that the Fire Department made a commitment to train as many people in the Village as possible in CPR techniques.

Mr. Kazmark said that he drove down to Union, New Jersey yesterday to meet with Chris Scales, Chief of Staff at the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). He said that the Village will be making application for a local aid grant to replace the building at the Ridgewood Bus Station. The renovation plans will be presented at a Village Council meeting in June of this

year. He thanked Mr. Scales, as well as 40th District Legislators, for their assistance and cooperation in this regard.

The final planning meeting of the Fourth of July Committee was held this morning. Mr. Kazmark thanked the staff of all Village departments who have assisted in this endeavor, to ensure a fantastic Fourth of July parade and fireworks demonstration. He also thanked all of the volunteers who serve on the Fourth of July Committee for all of their efforts.

Online registration for Graydon Pool badges, as well as for tennis and pickleball badges, began on April 1, 2025 through Community Pass. During the week, individuals may obtain their badges in person Monday through Friday, at the Lester Stable, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pool badges may also be obtained in person at the Graydon Pool Badge Office on May 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Kazmark said that the Touch-A-Truck event scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled, due to predicted inclement weather.

The Planting Day, led by the Ridgewood Beautification Team (RBT), has been scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2025, beginning at 7:45 a.m. The committee is seeking volunteers to assist in this endeavor. Individuals who are interested in helping should contact Councilmember Winograd.

The last day to register to vote in the Primary Election is May 20, 2025. Late night registration will be held in the lobby of the Ridgewood Library from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Kazmark reminded all residents of the irrigation restrictions in effect in the Village, which allow watering only two days per week. Residents with even-numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Sunday, and residents with odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesday and Saturday. No irrigation is permitted on Monday, Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Kazmark announced that the 48th Annual Ridgewood Run, sponsored by North Jersey Masters, will take place on Monday, May 26, 2025. The course starts at Veterans Field. Individuals wishing further details or to register should visit njmasters.com.

Memorial Day services, hosted by American Legion Post 53, will be held in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no recycling, yard waste or garbage pickups on that day. Residents should consult their Village Calendar for alternate collection dates.

Valley Hospital and the Community Center of Ridgewood Foundation, in conjunction with Older Americans Month, will be hosting a Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Youth Lounge on the first floor of Village Hall. There is no fee to attend this event, but registration is required by May 23rd through Capture Point Community Pass. The Senior Bus will be available to provide transportation on May 27th, and individuals wishing to avail themselves of this service should contact the Village Manager's Office to make arrangements.

Graydon Pool will be opening on Saturday, May 31, 2025, and will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the entire season, through Labor Day, September 1st.

Upcoming Village Council meetings are broadcast live from the Village Hall Courtroom, on the Village website, and on Channel 34 on FIOS. The next Work Sessions are scheduled for May 28, June 4, and June 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. The next Public Meeting will be held on June 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

7. VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Winograd said that, on Monday night, she and Mr. Kazmark attended the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting. They have been discussing the restoration of the bus station at Van Neste Square, which is located in an historic district. Councilmember Winograd thanked Stacey Tspatsaris and the members of the HPC for their expertise and feedback, as well as the Ridgewood Police Department who are lending their expertise in this endeavor.

The Shade Tree Commission had its meeting on Tuesday evening. Councilmember Winograd reminded everyone that the deadline to register for the Adopt-A-Sapling planting is May 16, 2025. This year, the saplings will be planted in the Willard Elementary School area. There are 65 saplings already scheduled to be planted, in the fall, in the right-of-way by residents' homes, and Councilmember Winograd would like to plant 100 saplings this year. Councilmember Winograd said that residents who do not live in the Willard area can still register to have a street tree planted in front of their homes, since there are still 90 trees left to plant.

Councilmember Winograd reminded everyone of Planting Day, which is scheduled for May 17, 2025. She thanked the members of the Ridgewood Beautification Team (RBT) for their efforts, and she encouraged Village residents to volunteer for this event. The RBT will be meeting volunteers in front of the War Memorial in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square at 7:45 a.m. Volunteers should bring gardening gloves and trowels with them. The event will be held rain or shine.

Councilmember Mortimer stated that the Open Space Committee met last week. They discussed areas in Ridgewood which could be used as open space, as well as the outstanding Green Acres diversion. Once the Green Acres diversion is cleared, the Village will be eligible to apply for more open space grants.

This past Monday, the Ridgewood Arts Council met, but Councilmember Mortimer was unable to attend that meeting.

Councilmember Weitz stated he attended the meeting of the Fourth of July Committee this morning. He thanked Tara Masterson and all of the volunteers who serve on this committee for all of their efforts. He also thanked, in advance, all of the Village staff members who will be working on the Fourth of July to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment of the festivities.

Councilmember Weitz stated that he attended the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission this past Monday. In addition to discussing the refurbishment of the bus station, they also voted unanimously in favor of an ordinance that will address demolishing historic homes in the Village. This proposal will be sent to the Ordinance Committee, and then will eventually come before the Village Council for consideration.

Deputy Mayor Perron thanked Dawn Cetrulo, Director of the Health Department, for holding the Rabies Clinic last week. She mentioned how efficiently and stress-free the clinic was run and how well-behaved the dogs were.

Deputy Mayor Perron thanked Robert Rooney, Chief Financial Officer, for meeting with the Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) last week. The Account Manager for ParkMobile was present at the meeting, along with Mr. Rooney and members of the Police Department. Many questions from the committee members were answered, and the members of CBDAC will brainstorm what improvements may be made in the Central Business District (CBD), based upon the answers given by ParkMobile.

The Planning Board meeting scheduled for May 20, 2025 has been canceled.

Mayor Vagianos said that Kurt Hommen, a Ridgewood resident and the Varsity Baseball Coach at Ridgewood High School, became the second baseball coach in North Jersey history to reach 600 career wins with a 16-2 victory over Emerson. There was a round of applause. Mayor Vagianos said that Mr. Hommen will be honored at a future Village Council meeting. Michael Lucchesi, Varsity Hockey Coach at Ridgewood High School, was voted "Coach of the Year" by the Coaches Association. There was another round of applause.

Mayor Vagianos announced that a new business opened in Ridgewood. It is called Tatte Bakery and Café and is located in the old Joseph Banks building on East Ridgewood Avenue. Mayor

Vagianos said that he went to the grand opening of this new business, and he recommended that everyone visit this new bakery to try their delicious food and lattes.

8. ORDINANCE

A. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #4046 – ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Clerk read Ordinance #4046 by title on second reading and that the Public Hearing thereon be opened. Councilmember Winograd seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

The Village Clerk read Ordinance #4046 by title only:

CALENDAR YEAR 2025 – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Since there were no public comments, Mayor Vagianos moved that the Public Hearing on Ordinance #4046 be closed. Deputy Mayor Perron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Councilmember Winograd moved that Ordinance #4046 be adopted on second reading and final publication as required by law. Deputy Mayor Perron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

9. <u>2025 BUDGET HEARING</u>

A. OVERVIEW OF 2025 BUDGET

Mr. Kazmark thanked all Village Department Directors and Mr. Rooney for their tireless efforts during the budget hearings. Mr. Kazmark said that he wholeheartedly believed that the final 2025 Budget is fiscally responsible, with a minimal impact on taxpayers. The \$64.8 million budget was introduced on April 9, 2025, and it calls for a 3.14% municipal tax increase over last year, which is consistent with the rate of inflation in this area of the country. For the average Ridgewood home assessed at \$712,700.00, this translates to a municipal tax increase of approximately \$149.63. Mr. Kazmark pointed out that this year's tax increase almost matches last year's number. He also pointed out that the Village's tax base grew by over \$200 million this year, largely due to the fact that the former main campus of the Valley Hospital, which moved to Paramus, has been entered into the tax rolls by the Village Tax Assessor.

Mr. Kazmark stated that the Village is committed to providing high-quality services to its residents, supporting public safety, maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure, planting new trees, improving parks, and continuing a robust road resurfacing program. He is confident that the spending plan formulated by the Village for 2025 will meet these goals.

Robert Rooney, Chief Financial Officer, as well as Bud Jones, Village Auditor with Nisivoccia, and Brian Gibbons, Auditor with Nisivoccia, introduced themselves to the public. Mr. Kazmark stated that the Division of Local Government Services, of the Department of Community Affairs, has directed the Village to make some amendments to the Village's 2025 Budget before it is adopted, and he asked Mr. Rooney to elaborate on these amendments.

Mr. Rooney said that one of the directives from the Division of Local Government Services will result in an appropriation reduction of \$151,000.00. He said that approximately \$900,000.00 of funds budgeted inside the cap for health insurance premiums had to be moved outside the cap. The Public Employees Retirement System needed to be adjusted to agree to the actual bill (from \$1,838,762.18 to \$1,741,706.18), which resulted in an appropriation reduction of \$97,056.00. There was an allocation increase of approximately \$22,800.00 to make this figure agree with the most recent bill for the Police and Firemen's Pension System of New Jersey, from \$4,503,012.91 to \$4,515,812.91. Mr. Rooney indicated that the Village needed to make a reduction to get inside the cap appropriations of \$76,744.00 (from \$8,183,827.09 to \$8,109,571.09). There was a directive to reduce Village Council Other Expenses by \$9,500.00, from \$97,700.00 to \$88,200.00. Utilities Expenses and Bulk Purchases were reduced by approximately \$60,244.00, from \$2,097,700.00 to \$2,030,456.00.

On the revenue side, Mr. Rooney said that the Village is required to include Municipal Relief Funds of \$29,181.00, which sum was received by the Village last year. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes were reduced by \$180,181.00, from \$2,451,388.00 to \$2,271,207.00.

B. VILLAGE COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Councilmember Mortimer thanked Village staff for their hard work on the 2025 Budget. This was the first time he went through a municipal budget process and he was pleased how the various Budget Directors prioritized their requests. Councilmember Mortimer said that he was also pleased that the municipal tax increase for 2025 will be less than \$150.00 for the average household. He was confident that this balanced budget will provide Ridgewood residents with the services they need and will improve public safety. Regarding public safety, Councilmember Mortimer said that the 2025 Budget will allow for more police officers to be hired and for more pedestrian-activated crosswalk devices to be purchased and installed. He said that the 2025 Budget will allow new locker rooms to be built at the Recycling Center, and will allow for the purchase of a new Groundsmaster 5500 for the Parks Department. Councilmember Mortimer added that the 2025 Budget allocations will enable new sunshades to be purchased for Graydon Pool.

Councilmember Weitz thanked Mr. Kazmark and his staff, Mr. Rooney and his staff, and the Village Auditors for their hard work on the budget and ensuring that it meets all regulatory requirements. He stated that more police and fire personnel are being hired in 2025, much-needed improvements will be made at Graydon Pool, and all public services to residents remain intact, with no cuts. Councilmember Weitz stated that the Village is investing over \$2 million in 2025 for road resurfacing, and will continue investing money into sinking funds to be used against future expenses, such as the sinking fund established for the eventual purchase of a new fire engine, and the sinking fund for replacement of the turf at Maple Field. He described all of these investments as the epitome of fiscal responsibility. Councilmember Weitz said the low municipal tax rate increase for 2025 bespoke of the hard work demonstrated by the Village Council and Village staff.

Councilmember Winograd also thanked all Village Department Directors, Mr. Rooney and his staff, and Village Auditors for their assistance in developing the Village's 2025 Budget. She stated that this year's budget portrays long-term thinking and planning for the future. The budget this year represents a deep commitment to Village parks, communication enhancements, planting trees, and filling vacant storefronts in the Central Business District. Councilmember Winograd said that the Village has become grant-worthy, due in part to the great work done between Millennium Strategies and Village staff.

Deputy Mayor Perron said that she has always been amazed how Village departments have been able to work with such a lean staff. She said that she appreciates the cooperation and creativity

shown by all Department Directors during the budget process in 2025. Deputy Mayor Perron said that she is proud that the Village has been able to maintain its AAA bond rating. She said that she was especially pleased with the allocations for infrastructure improvements in the 2025 Budget, including the Kingsbridge Lane Pedestrian Bridge, sidewalks, and road repaying.

Mayor Vagianos echoed all of the comments made by the other Village Councilmembers. He pointed out that the municipal portion of the tax bill for 2025 will result in an increase of only \$149.63 for the average Ridgewood household, but there are other portions of the tax bill over which the Village has no control, including the Board of Education and Bergen County. Mayor Vagianos said that the 2025 municipal tax increase for a home worth \$1.4 million in Ridgewood will be only \$298.00, and approximately \$400.00 for a home worth \$2.1 million.

C. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 BUDGET

Mayor Vagianos asked the Village Clerk to read the title of the 2025 Budget:

2025 BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD, COUNTY OF BERGEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mayor Vagianos opened the Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget.

Boyd A. Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, said that he had some questions regarding some comments made earlier by Mr. Rooney regarding the required amendments to the 2025 Budget, as directed by the Division of Local Government Services. Mr. Loving asked if the 3.14% municipal tax increase changed as a result of these amendments.

Mr. Loving recalled that during the introduction of the budget, a comment was made that the Village had to ensure that all Village-owned assets were rented out, particularly the Zabriskie-Schedler house. In late 2023 and early 2024, Mr. Loving said that there was a discussion about renting out the taxi stand near the train station. He said that one Village Councilmember suggested that people should visit the taxi stand to welcome the new tenant. However, that new tenancy never panned out, although the prospective tenant signed a lease and the Village expected to be paid rent for the lease term. Mr. Loving asked whether that rent was ever collected. He also asked if there are any current plans to rent out the taxi stand.

Mr. Loving recalled that Matthew Rogers, Village Attorney, stated that the Valley Hospital property had to be declared as a ratable for the Village, once it no longer operated as a hospital. He asked whether the expected tax revenue of between \$5.2 million and \$5.3 million on this newly assessed property also had to be declared by the Board of Education. Mr. Loving said that Mr. Kazmark stated that in 2024, the Village collected a little over \$400,000.00 in taxes from Valley Hospital, before they moved their main campus to Paramus. He said that none of this

revenue went to the Board of Education. Mr. Loving asked whether the additional tax revenue expected in 2025 had to be split between the Village and the Board of Education and, if so, what amount of that additional revenue would the Village receive.

Mr. Loving also asked if the litigation between Valley Hospital and the Village has been settled or whether it is still ongoing. If the assessed taxes against Valley Hospital are not received in 2025, he asked what effect this would have on the operation of the Village. He asked if the Village has developed a contingency plan, if no tax revenue is received from Valley Hospital in 2025.

Saurabh Dani, a resident of Ridgewood, asked that there be no interruptions while he is speaking. He also asked if his questions would be answered directly. Mayor Vagianos assured Mr. Dani that someone will write down all of his questions and that answers would be given to his questions after the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Dani asked for corroboration of this from Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers responded that there is no statutory requirement that the Village engage in a question-and-answer type of session during a Public Hearing. However, Mr. Rogers said that they would try to answer all of Mr. Dani's questions. Mr. Dani stated that he is directing all of his questions to the professionals sitting in the courtroom at the table, and not the people sitting on the dais, unless he specifies otherwise.

Mr. Dani asked if it would be correct to state that the municipal tax levy increased from approximately \$39 million to approximately \$42 million, and that this increase translates to approximately a 6.6% municipal tax levy on property taxes. Mr. Dani said that he received a mailer recently concerning the 2025 Budget, and that the mailer stated that the Village Council introduced a \$64.8 million budget, with a 3.14% municipal tax increase. He asked if his first statement was accurate and whether the statement in the mailer was incorrect from a financial perspective.

Mr. Dani said that use of the term "consistent with the current rate of inflation" usually pertains to an increase in expenses, rather than revenues. He asked Mr. Rooney, Mr. Jones and Mr. Gibbons if they would agree with this statement, since the Village has stated that the 3.14% municipal tax increase is consistent with the current rate of inflation in the northeast.

Mr. Dani said that Mayor Vagianos stated that there would be a \$149.63 municipal tax increase for the average Ridgewood homeowner, together with additional increases from the Board of Education. Mr. Dani asked Mayor Vagianos what the additional tax increase would be from the Board of Education in 2025.

Mr. Dani said that Councilmember Weitz stated that there will always be disagreements during budget hearings. Mr. Dani said that he does not disagree with the appropriations made by the Village Council in the 2025 Budget, but he disagrees with the way the Village is communicating

with its residents regarding the municipal tax increase and other matters. He said that Village residents were misled by Mayor Vagianos during his Village Council re-election campaign debate, when he spoke about the student-teacher ratio in Ridgewood schools. He said that it was misleading for the Village to tell its residents that Village expenses are consistent with the rate of inflation.

There were no further comments, and Mayor Vagianos moved that the Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget be closed. Councilmember Mortimer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Addressing Mr. Loving's comment, Mr. Kazmark stated that the budget amendments do not change the bottom-line municipal tax increase of 3.14%. Mr. Kazmark said that there is a tenant currently leasing the taxi stand. Although this tenant has not yet occupied the building, they have paid the rent for the term of the lease in full. Mr. Kazmark explained that this tenant had to take care of either a personal or business obligation overseas, before he could take occupancy of the building.

Regarding Valley Hospital, Mr. Kazmark said that he stated at a prior meeting that the Village Tax Assessor, who is guided by the State of New Jersey, was required to add the Valley Hospital property as an assessed property. In 2021, a law was signed by Governor Murphy that established a "per bed" tax, which is a tax that does not fall under traditional property taxation. It is an assessment that is separate from property taxes, and was levied on Valley Hospital, when it was based in Ridgewood, and was calculated on the number of beds that they had during the calendar year. Approximately \$500,000.00 was received from Valley Hospital in payment of the per bed tax for an entire year. Once the main campus of the hospital moved out of Ridgewood to Paramus, the per bed tax was no longer applicable. The Tax Assessor reviewed the former Valley Hospital property in Ridgewood, consulted with the County, and determined that this property should be added to the tax rolls as of May 1, 2024. Mr. Kazmark deferred to the Village Auditors and Mr. Rooney to answer Mr. Loving's question about what would occur if the anticipated tax revenue from Valley Hospital is not received by the Village. Mr. Kazmark said that he would rather talk in hypotheticals rather than specifics, since there is ongoing litigation between the Village and Valley Hospital.

Mr. Jones stated that the Tax Assessor in Ridgewood is required by State statute to follow certain guidelines and to assess all properties in the Village, and the Tax Assessor cannot show any type of favoritism or exclude any property from the tax rolls. Non-collection of taxes on assessed

properties results in a tax sale. Mr. Jones said that this tax sale can occur as early as December 11 of the current year, or any time thereafter in the following calendar year. He said that the disadvantage of initiating a tax sale earlier, rather than later, would be that the municipality could not collect the interest rate of 18% on delinquent property taxes over \$1,500.00 for an extended period of time.

Mr. Kazmark asked Mr. Jones if it was correct to say that a municipality cannot alter its budget based upon one or multiple projections as to whether or not certain property taxes would be paid. Mr. Jones replied that the net valuation taxable is reported to the County by the Tax Assessor and that is the amount that the tax rate is struck on. Mr. Kazmark stated that the "contingency plan" referred to by Mr. Loving is the tax sale process, and Mr. Jones concurred.

Regarding the reserve for uncollected taxes, Mr. Jones said that this reserve has a twofold purpose. It allows for cash flow for a municipality. He said that a municipality is required to collect all taxes, whether levied by the municipality, the County, or the school district. The municipality, after a tax sale, is required to satisfy the property taxes first, before using any proceeds to support the operations of the town. Mr. Jones stated that a municipality's cash flow must be at a certain level in order to pay the County and school taxes, before paying a municipality's bills. Mr. Jones stated that there are certain properties that do not pay taxes, and the reserve for uncollected taxes is a budgeting mechanism to try to account for them, to some degree. He said that this method varies from state to state, but is required by New Jersey statutes.

Addressing Mr. Loving's earlier comments, Mr. Kazmark stated that neither the Village nor the Board of Education (BOE) has a way to budget in preparation for a taxpayer paying or not paying taxes. He said that when Mr. Rooney shared the new assessment numbers with the Business Administrator for the BOE, the impact of the added assessments, amounting to over \$200 million for 2025, actually reduced the BOE's school tax increase of 2% by approximately \$80 on the average Ridgewood home assessed at \$712,700.00. He said that the BOE built into their budget the additional assessment of \$200 million. Mr. Kazmark said that he was uncertain how the person at the BOE could have told Mr. Loving that the BOE prepared a budget based upon a potential taxpayer not paying property taxes. Mr. Jones concurred, stating that a taxpayer not paying property taxes would never be a concern of the County or the BOE, because the Village takes all of the risk for collection of taxes.

Mr. Kazmark stated that approximately 62% of the 2025 tax bill is attributable to the BOE, 24% is attributable to the Village, 11% is attributable to the County, and the balance is attributable to the two Open Space Funds and Municipal Library tax. Mr. Kazmark said that it is public knowledge that there are two tax appeals that are pending with Valley Hospital. Mr. Kazmark said that the Village's Tax Appeal Attorney, as recently as last week, attended a status conference regarding the tax appeals. However, other details of the litigation cannot be discussed with the public at this time.

Mr. Kazmark said that he would defer to Mr. Jones to answer the questions posed by Mr. Dani, regarding how the significant increase in ratables impacted the municipal tax increase of 3.14% (which translates to an increase of \$149.63 on the average Ridgewood home assessed at \$712,700.00).

Mr. Jones said that he believed that looking at the increase on an individual property, as an average, makes much more sense to Village taxpayers. He said that an overall percentage increase is not relevant to a person who is paying their taxes, but rather, they want to know what the increase is actually going to be (dollar amount) during any calendar year.

Regarding an earlier question by Mr. Dani regarding the rate of inflation, Mr. Kazmark stated that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of inflation in April 2025 in the northeastern region of the United States is 3.2%.

Mayor Vagianos said that he was surprised that Mr. Dani asked Mayor Vagianos personally what the Board of Education portion of the 2025 tax bill would be, especially since Mr. Dani sits on the Board of Education. Mayor Vagianos stated that the Board of Education portion of the 2025 tax bill is 62%. Mr. Kazmark added that when the Board of Education introduced their budget, it was introduced with a 2% tax rate increase. Subsequent to the budget introduction, Mr. Rooney supplied the Board of Education with the additional ratables for 2025, which reduced the Board of Education tax increase by approximately \$80.00 on the average home in Ridgewood.

Regarding the comments directed by Mr. Dani to Councilmember Weitz, Councilmember Weitz said that his use of the term "disagreements" did not relate to disagreements with the public. Councilmember Weitz said that he asked some rather critical, pointed questions of Village staff and Mr. Kazmark during the budget hearings, and he said that his criticality was not out of malice, but rather out of a sense of duty as a Village Councilmember. He said that the disagreements he referred to were healthy disagreements amongst the Village Councilmembers and Village Department Directors about how tax dollars would be spent in 2025.

Mr. Kazmark said that the amendments to the 2025 Budget, as directed by the Division of Local Government Services, are contained in the Transparency Binder in the courtroom, if any member of the public would like to review same, on the second page of Resolution #25-227.

Councilmember Winograd said that it was an extremely unique situation for a hospital to move out of a municipality. She said that she has learned a lot during the budget process this year. Councilmember Winograd reminded the public that when certain matters are discussed in Closed Session, it is because Village officials do not talk about people or property "out in front" because such a discussion could have an impact on the value of the property being discussed. She cited the examples of discussions about the Town Garage, as well as pending litigation with Valley Hospital.

Mayor Vagianos thanked Mr. Rooney, Mr. Jones and Mr. Gibbons for attending the meeting this evening. Mr. Kazmark thanked all Village Department Directors for attending this evening's meeting as well.

10. RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Mailander said that the following resolutions, numbered 25-227, 25-227A, and 25-228 would be adopted by a Consent Agenda, with one vote by the Village Council, and would be read by title only:

11. RESOLUTIONS – RIDGEWOOD WATER

Ms. Mailander said that the following resolutions, numbered 25-229 through 25-233 would be adopted by a Consent Agenda, with one vote by the Village Council, and would be read by title only:

12. ORDINANCES

A. <u>INTRODUCTION - #4048 – PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT</u> <u>ORDINANCE</u>

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Clerk read Ordinance #4048 by title on first reading. Councilmember Winograd seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

The Village Clerk read Ordinance #4048 by title only:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD AND THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO, ITS AFFILIATES AND MEMBERS AND THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT

Deputy Mayor Perron moved that Ordinance #4048 be adopted on first reading and that June 11, 2025 be fixed as the date for the hearing thereon. Councilmember Winograd seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

B. PUBLIC HEARING - #4047 – AUTHORIZE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY EASEMENT INTEREST – 535 EAST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Clerk read Ordinance #4047 by title on second reading and that the Public Hearing thereon be opened. Councilmember Weitz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

The Village Clerk read Ordinance #4047 by title only:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY EASEMENT INTEREST WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

Since there were no public comments, Mayor Vagianos moved that the Public Hearing on Ordinance #4047 be closed. Councilmember Weitz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Councilmember Winograd moved that Ordinance #4047 be adopted on second reading and final publication as required by law. Councilmember Weitz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

13. <u>RESOLUTIONS</u>

Ms. Mailander stated that the following resolutions, numbered 25-235 through 25-253 would be adopted by a Consent Agenda, with one vote by the Village Council, and would be read by title only:

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Boyd A. Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, said that he has been attending Village Council meetings for many years, and this evening's Public Hearing regarding the 2025 Budget is the first Public Hearing he can recall where the Village Council did not allow members of the public to speak for a second time, after everyone who wanted to make comments was given the chance to speak. Mr. Loving said that he has confirmed with Mr. Rogers that if someone wants to speak for a second time during a Public Hearing, they are allowed to do so. However, this evening, the public was not given that chance, and Mayor Vagianos closed the Public Hearing prematurely. Mr. Loving said that he wanted to speak a second time, since some of the questions he asked the first time he spoke were not answered.

Specifically, Mr. Loving said that he had asked what the dollar amount was, as a result of the Valley tax assessment, that was going to be used for Village purposes. He said that his quick calculation came to an amount of \$1.2 million, and he was told that this amount was correct. Mr. Loving said that to the best of his recollection, the one-year lease for the taxi stand at the train station began in November of 2023 and ended at the end of October 2024. Mr. Loving asked if the tenant had a one- or two-year lease, since the taxi stand still appears to be unoccupied.

Mr. Loving asked again about what the Village's contingency plan is going to be, in the event that Valley Hospital is successful in their tax appeal and the assessment against their property ends up being much less than \$5.2 million or \$5.3 million. Mr. Loving acknowledged that the Village had to include this additional assessment in the budget, and also that the Village Council could not discuss the pending tax appeals in public. However, Mr. Loving asked what the Village will do if the court rules in favor of Valley Hospital and the Village "does not see a dime" in additional tax revenue. He again asked what the Village's contingency plan will be, in that situation.

Denise Lima, a resident of Ridgewood, said that she wanted to talk about Resolution #25-241, which awarded a contract, under State contract, for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the Village's fleet, in the amount of \$400,000.00. The contract was awarded to Rachles/Michele's Oil Company, Inc., which is based in Clifton, New Jersey. She said that she did not understand how economical it would be for Village employees to have to travel to Clifton to fill up their tanks.

Saurabh Dani, a resident of Ridgewood, apologized to Councilmember Weitz for mispronouncing his name earlier this evening. Mr. Dani said that none of the questions he asked during the Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget this evening were answered. He said that his first question was discarded, because it was not what residents wanted to know (percentage of tax rate increase versus the actual dollar amount of the tax increase). However, Mr. Dani said that, as a citizen and taxpayer in Ridgewood, he really wanted an answer to his question. (Mr. Dani asked

previously if it would be correct to state that the municipal tax levy increased from approximately \$39 million to approximately \$42 million, and that this increase translates to a 6.6% municipal tax levy on property taxes.) Mr. Dani said that if the Village is going to abide by the answer already given, he will take the matter to the State Local Finance Board.

Mr. Dani said that his second question, directed at Mayor Vagianos, was what the additional tax increase (dollar amount) would be from the Board of Education in 2025. Mr. Dani said that Mayor Vagianos replied that 62% of the tax bill for 2025 is attributable to the Board of Education. Mr. Kazmark stated that the average resident in Ridgewood would see a tax decrease of approximately \$80.00 on the Board of Education portion of the tax bill. Mr. Dani said that both of these answers were incorrect and did not answer his question properly. Mr. Dani said that as a result of the added Valley Hospital property assessment, the average homeowner in Ridgewood would see a decrease of \$80.90 in the portion of the tax bill attributable to the Board of Education.

There were no further public comments.

Mayor Vagianos apologized to Mr. Loving for closing the Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget before Mr. Loving had a chance to speak again. Mayor Vagianos felt certain that he asked if anyone else had any other questions before he closed the Public Hearing.

Addressing Mr. Loving's question about whether or not the Village has a contingency plan in the event Valley Hospital is successful in their tax appeal, Mayor Vagianos stated that such a contingency plan is part of the ongoing litigation with Valley Hospital, which cannot be discussed publicly at this time. He said that the Village does not want to "show their cards" in any ongoing litigation.

Regarding Mr. Loving's question about the tenancy at the taxi stand, Mayor Vagianos believed that the tenant is still planning to occupy the building. Mr. Kazmark said that he also believed the same thing, but he would have to pull the file to see when exactly the lease expires.

Addressing Ms. Lima's question about the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel from a company located in Clifton for the Village's fleet, Mayor Vagianos explained that this company actually delivers the gasoline and diesel fuel to the Village's garage, where there is a pumping station. This was confirmed by Mr. Kazmark.

Addressing Mr. Loving, Mr. Kazmark said that the litigation with Valley Hospital is a tax appeal matter, which the Village deals with all of the time. Mr. Kazmark said that there have been less tax appeals lately, because of the rise in real estate values, and the "comps" (comparable properties) are not on the side of the property owner. He said that the Village's Tax Appeal Attorney and Village Attorney are well versed in dealing with tax appeal matters, and have dealt with them for decades.

Mr. Kazmark said that he wants to avoid any "heightened urgency" that the Valley Hospital tax appeal is any different from other tax appeals, although he conceded that Valley Hospital is a "heavy property taxpayer." He cannot comment publicly on this tax appeal, and will allow that process to take its course. Mr. Kazmark spoke about the tax sale process and the reserve for uncollected taxes, both of which are meant to protect the Village when it comes to tax appeals or delinquent taxes.

Addressing Mr. Dani, Mr. Kazmark said that he and others have spent the last six weeks answering the same questions about the Village's budget over and over again. He said that Mr. Jones answered Mr. Dani's question this evening (regarding the tax increase and tax levy).

15. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

There being no further business to come before the Village Council, on a motion by Councilmember Weitz, seconded by Councilmember Mortimer, and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Village Council's Regular Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

3.7	
Mayor	