

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 JUNE 11, 2025 AT 7:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Vagianos called the meeting to order at 7:30 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. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Bills, Claims, and Vouchers, and Statement of Funds on Hand as of May 31, 2025, be accepted as submitted. Deputy Mayor Perron 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 May 7 and May 14, 2025, having been reviewed by the Village Council and now available in the Village Clerk's Office, be approved as submitted. Councilmember Mortimer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. PROCLAMATIONS

**A. RECOGNIZE COACH KURT HOMMEN – ALL TIME WINNINGEST
BASEBALL COACH IN BERGEN COUNTY HISTORY**

Mayor Vagianos asked the Village Councilmembers to join him on the floor, as well as Kurt Hommen, Head Baseball Coach at Ridgewood High School (RHS). Mayor Vagianos said that Coach Hommen coached Mayor Vagianos's daughter, and has been head coach of the Ridgewood High School (RHS) baseball program for 15 years. Coach Hommen recently earned the title of All-Time Winningest Baseball Coach in Bergen County History on May 12, 2025, after Ridgewood beat Paramus, one to zero. This was Coach Hommen's 631st career victory. Mayor Vagianos read the following Proclamation:

There was a resounding round of applause. Coach Hommen thanked the Village Council for this honor and stated that he has enjoyed working at RHS for the past 15 years. He expressed the hope that he can continue to work there for many more years.

B. RECOGNITION OF RIDGEWOOD COACHES

Mayor Vagianos then asked RHS Swim Coach Kyle Schulke and RHS Basketball Coach Michael Troy to join him on the floor. Mayor Vagianos gave Coach Schulke a Certificate of Recognition for earning the honor of Big North Conference Swimming Coach of the Year and Michael Troy for earning the honor of Bergen County Basketball Coach of the Year. There was a resounding round of applause. Both coaches thanked the Village Council for recognizing their achievements this evening. There was a resounding round of applause.

C. PROCLAIM JULY 31, 2025 NATIONAL INTERN DAY

Several interns, who have volunteered their time to Ridgewood committees and departments, such as the Ridgewood Beautification Team, the ACCESS Committee, Ridgewood Water, the Village Manager's Office, and Municipal Court, joined Councilmember Winograd on the floor as she read the Proclamation. Councilmember Winograd spoke about the formation of the intern program and the unique skill sets which are brought to the forefront by these interns, particularly regarding social media and marketing. Each of the interns spoke a few words about how much they have enjoyed their experiential learning opportunities. There was a resounding round of applause.

Councilmember Winograd read the following Proclamation:

D. RECOGNIZE JUNETEENTH

Deputy Mayor Perron then read the following Proclamation:

After the Proclamation was read, there was a resounding round of applause.

**E. RECOGNIZE RIDGEWOOD AS BEE CITY USA AND OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK**

Councilmember Mortimer read the following Proclamation:

There was a resounding round of applause. Councilmember Mortimer stated that Ridgewood has been a Bee City USA since 2017.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

6. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kazmark stated that the meeting of the Historic Sites Council (part of the State Historic Preservation Office and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) that was initially scheduled for June 19, 2025, regarding the Schedler property application, has been rescheduled for July 21, 2025.

Graydon Pool is now open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, through September 1 (Labor Day).

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.

The Ridgewood Guild is sponsoring “Music in the Night” on Friday evenings in the Central Business District (CBD) through the summer, until Labor Day. “Music in the Park” will take place on Saturday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square. On June 14th, AMPED will be playing, and on June 21st, Thursday Eve Collective will provide musical entertainment. “Free Movies in the Park,” sponsored by the Ridgewood Guild, will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 9:00 p.m. this evening, in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, and continuing through August 20th.

The Summer Concert Series has begun at the Kasschau Memorial Shell, on Veterans Field. Visitors should bring a chair or blanket to the concerts. The concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted, and are held every Tuesday and Thursday evening during the months of June, July and August.

Village Hall will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in observance of Juneteenth. The Recycling Center will also be closed. There will be no curbside bulk refuse pickup that week. Residents should consult their Village Calendar for alternate collection dates.

The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce is presenting the 25th Annual Ridgewood Farmers Market on Sundays, beginning on June 27, 2025 and ending on October 29, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Train Station parking lot on the west side.

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 June 25 and July 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. The next Public Meeting will be held on July 9, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

7. VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Mortimer said that the Citizens Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) and Open Space Committee are both meeting tomorrow, so he had nothing new to report.

Councilmember Winograd said that she attended a meeting of the Shade Tree Commission last night. She reminded everyone that Mulch Monday will take place on June 23, 2025, rain or shine, and they are seeking volunteers. Everyone will meet on that date in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square. Mulching will help to maintain newly planted trees and will add to the beautification of the Village. Councilmember Winograd asked everyone to report any tree that they see in the CBD that is failing to thrive, since these trees are still under warranty. In the fall, the Shade Tree Commission will be launching a “1,000 Tree” initiative, which will challenge the community to see how fast 1,000 trees can be planted (more details to follow). Councilmember Winograd wished Nancy Brennan-Hill a happy birthday.

Councilmember Weitz stated that he had nothing new to report.

Deputy Mayor Perron said that last Saturday, she noticed a dead tree on the strip between the sidewalk and the curb on a Ridgewood street. She notified the Village Manager’s Office and, when passing the location of the dead tree the following Monday, she noticed that it had been removed. Mr. Kazmark said that Matthew Andrula, Supervisor of the Parks Department, and his crew took swift action to ensure that the dead tree was removed.

Deputy Mayor Perron stated that a Special Public Meeting of the Planning Board will be held tomorrow night, in Village Hall, to discuss the Fourth Round Affordable Housing Plan proposed by Beth McManus, the Village’s Affordable Housing Planner. This plan must be submitted by the end of June 2025. This meeting, which starts at 7:30 p.m., is open to the public.

Mayor Vagianos said that he had nothing new to report.

8. RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Mailander said that the following resolutions, numbered 25-256 through 25-264, would be adopted by a Consent Agenda, with one vote by the Village Council, and would be read by title only.

9. ORDINANCES

A. INTRODUCTION - #4049 – AMEND CHAPTER 145 – FEES – INCREASE FEES FOR CONNECTION TO SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Clerk read Ordinance #4049 by title on first reading. Councilmember Mortimer 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 #4049 by title only:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 145 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD, FEES, AT SECTION 145-6, ENUMERATION OF FEES RELATING TO CODE CHAPTERS

Councilmember Winograd moved that Ordinance #4049 be adopted on first reading and that July 9, 2025 be fixed as the date for the hearing thereon. Councilmember Mortimer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Vagianos
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

B. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #4048 – PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT ORDINANCE

Mayor Vagianos moved that the Village Clerk read Ordinance #4048 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 #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

Since there were no public comments, Mayor Vagianos moved that the Public Hearing on Ordinance #4048 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 #4048 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

10. RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Mailander said that the following resolutions, numbered 25-265 through 25-294 would be adopted by a Consent Agenda, with one vote by the Village Council, and would be read by title only.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cynthia O’Keefe, a resident of Ridgewood, said that she was very pleased to see the support given by the Village Council to the young interns who were recognized during the meeting this evening. She said that it is always good to see young talent participating in municipal government. She said that it was shortsighted for Mayor Vagianos to state that these young interns are the “leaders of tomorrow,” when the Village Councilmembers are voting in favor of artificial turf, which Ms. O’Keefe said was very bad for the environment. She wondered what kind of message is being sent by the Village Council to the “leaders of tomorrow” by their pro-stance on artificial turf. Ms. O’Keefe said that the decisions made by the Village Councilmembers today will affect the environment in which these young people must live in the future. She does not feel that the use of artificial turf in the Village is a responsible decision, and flies in the face of Ridgewood being designated as a Bee City USA. She said that artificial turf is harmful to bees and to the ecosystem.

Anne Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, wished all of the fathers in the courtroom this evening a very Happy Father’s Day.

There were no further public comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Village Council, on a motion by Deputy Mayor Perron, seconded by Councilmember Mortimer, and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Village Council’s Regular Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Paul Vagianos
Mayor

Heather A. Mailander
Village Clerk