

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2021
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION - 7:30 P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor Rubenstein called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place. In addition, a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk, posted on the main door, the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, on the Township website at: https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/town_hall/township_council, and has been forwarded to those persons requesting notice.

ROLL CALL OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – Councilman Bonker here; Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein here. Also present was Township Manager Mr. Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Church.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication
 - General
 - Forest Lakes Drive
 - Cannabis Legalization
- b. Contract Negotiations
 - B.A.R.K.S
 - Collective Bargaining
 - Shared Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matters:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on March 16, 2021.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Bonker to return to open session at 7:32 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco, to approve the agenda as presented.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

PRESENTATION BY FRENCH AND PARRELLO – C.O. Johnson Park Concepts

Mr. Denis Keenan & Mr. Michael Piga gave a presentation on the conceptual plans for C.O. Johnson Field. The goal is to get this down to one concept.

Concept #1

- Eliminates the old recreation building, parking lot and relocation of the basketball court.
- Added parking near the basketball court
- Added landscaping to roadway and the park
- Changed parking to 180 spaces and added a rain garden
- The new recreation building would house meeting room, rest room, locker rooms
- Relocated the playground area, that can be themed
- Provides a multi-sport practice area
- Baseball fields, A, B, C would remain the same
- Easy access pathways around the field
- Additional parking on the east end of the park
- Storage on the east side for sports storage
- Center of the field would be a 12 foot wide walkway to allow for emergency services and a pathway
- New Concession stand in the center of the field (28' x 28' space) with bathrooms
- Two football / soccer fields (one main field and second field)
- Nature trails
- Softball Field
- Dog park with additional parking across the street from the field

Concept #2

- Kept the current recreation building – would need upgrades
- Would take out skate park and add the basketball court in that area
- Tennis courts to remain where they are now
- Center of park would be the playground with additional practice field
- Baseball fields, A, B, C would remain the same
- Easy access pathways around the field
- New concession stand in the center of the field (28' x 28' space) with bathrooms
- Two football / soccer fields (one main field and second field)
- Dog Park near football / soccer fields
- Trails
- Softball Field

Budgeting

- Option A: Relocation of Stormwater Basin and Fields 7&8 - \$681,375.00
- Option B: Proposed Recreation Center Building - \$2,091,550.00
- Option C: Demo Existing Building and Parking - \$347,875.00
- Option D: Renovate Existing Recreation Building - \$1,263,000.00
- Option E: Proposed Concession Stand and Bathrooms - \$750,375.00
- Option F: Proposed Dog Park - \$367,425.00
- Option G: Main Parking Lot Improvements - \$635,375.00
- Option H: Relocation Basketball Courts- \$201,825.00
- Option I: Relocate Playground - \$271,572.50
- Option J: Proposed Walking Paths in Park \$215,625.00
- Option K: Proposed Walking Paths in Woods \$163,875.00

Mike Piga asked the Mayor and Council to think about the following:

- The need for a new recreation building
- To keep or remove the skateboard park
- Location of basketball courts
- Location of dog park
- Layout of the walking path
- Location of the concessions

Mayor Rubenstein asked what they foresee the use being for the recreation building. Mr. Piga said that seniors would be able to use the space, along with many other options.

Mr. Piga added that he feels that the recreation building would need to be replaced at some point due to the current condition and limitation of the current building.

Mayor Rubenstein likes the first concept plan with the idea of a new building. He likes the dog park being across the street, and the location of the concession stand with the bathrooms being central in the park.

Councilman Bonker is very excited about the quality of both designs. Specifically he likes the first concept plan with the new building, and the flow of the park. Likes the dog park being across the street. Would like to see a looped walking path around the park. Likes how the concession stand is situated in the middle of the field with the bathrooms. Happy to get rid of the current detention basin. Only concern he would have with the dog park and the moving of the detention basin would be with the Highlands.

Mr. Keenan said the issue with impervious coverage is that it cannot be increased. They will need to speak with the Highlands Council about moving the dog park into the woods area.

Mr. Sabatini said that the timber harvest that was just completed cleared most of the area of where the conceptual dog park across the street is located.

Councilwoman Franco very excited about the first concept plan with the dog park across the street. Likes the bathrooms being centrally located. Thinks that it is time for a new building and likes that it is located right next to the parking lot.

Councilman Gallagher likes the first design. Happy to see the recreation building relocated. Would like to see lighting on the basketball court. Would like to discuss relocating the skateboard park. This plan provides opportunity to host tournaments. Likes the separate storage area for each sports group. Likes the location of the dog park.

Councilman Roseff said that he pushed for having a landscape architect involved. He is concerned about the cost. It is a great plan but has concerns on how it will be paid for. Concerned about a tax increase. Should have given the landscape architects a budget. Feel's it is a "dreamlike" redesign of C.O. Johnson Park. Questioned how many fields are needed in the township. Feels the budget number is critical in guiding the landscape architect.

Councilman Bonker feels that parking is at a premium and expanding the parking lot is worthwhile. Councilman Bonker responded to Councilman Roseff's comment and said that Greener by Design delivered the township with a 10-year plan on every park in the township. We should be focusing on the questions that this firm has asked regarding the building, skate park, basketball court, dog park, the walk around and the concession.

Joseph Sabatini said that they did a good job with both plans. He likes the dog park that is on the opposite side of the street. His only concern is parking. Likes the walking paths throughout the park and around the park. Both plans address the issues with field #8. Mr. Sabatini provided the township council a couple years ago with quotes for playground replacements for this park as well as Riverside Park. The location of the playground where it is now is an ongoing safety issue. It required investments on that field to mitigate some of the issues. If it was decided to keep the existing field house where and did an expansion, they should consider changing the current practice field into a parking area.

Concept 1 price - \$5.7 million
Concept 2 price - \$4.5 million

Scott Yappen, 5 Catherine – asked if it is realistic to get grant funding on a site like this. Mr. Kennan said yes, it is. He asked about their thought on turf and lights. Mr. Kennan said that turf is a permitting issue because it is a pervious service. Lights can be an add on to the fields.

Annalise DeMagistris, 69 North Shore Road - likes the design and the new building. Asked if the field house would be something they would rent. Joe said no, that is not currently being done. It would be a council policy.

Len Bicher, 62 Sleepy Hollow Road - likes the plan with the dog park on the opposite side of the road. Would like to see the park be able to accommodate a 50/70 field. Joe said that currently field 3 can accommodate the 50/70.

Mr. Sabatini said the next step is for French & Parello to take the comments made by the council and merge them into one plan.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Sabatini appointed Caitlin Phillips as Land Subdivision Search Officer.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – the adoption of Budget is April 6th. After the adoption, the capital ordinances will be adopted. The HVAC system in the meeting room has failed and is beyond repair. They are collecting estimates to determine for future what they would like to do.

Mayor Rubenstein –Had a meeting with public utilities regarding Altese. The understanding he got from the BPU was the sentiment of taking this to a formal hearing. Expect more action from the BPU.

Councilman Bonker – Timber sale is complete. Commented on the beginning process of a long-term CO Johnson park project. Councilman Bonker commented on the American Recover Plan Grant. He said with this grant the township is receiving \$779,179.91. He stated that that amount should be considered to bring down the cost of the new municipal building. That would bring the \$5.5 million price tag for the new municipal building down to \$4.7 million. He feels that now is the time to move forward with building the new municipal building.

Councilwoman Franco – Attended the meeting regarding the Rt. 206 Pequest project. Hayden Harris family visited Byram at the firehouse along with the Police Department and members of the council. She agrees that the American Recover Plan Grant money should go toward the municipal building.

Councilman Gallagher – Fire Department had an ice rescue drill on Lake Lackawanna. The Recreation Committee meeting was productive, they talked about planning a Byram Fest on Oct 9th and trying to do a pickleball event. Spoke of a possibility of having Recreation Facebook page.

Councilman Roseff – no report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Ruth Rhodes, 764 West Shore Trail – Asked if the council considered an ordinance prohibiting cannabis sale. Mayor Rubenstein said that there will be discussion on it at the next meeting. She has concerns about parents not being notified by law enforcement on the first offence of underage use of drugs and alcohol.

Scott Yappen, 5 Catherine Lane – Asked about MJA or Nader Group activities. Mr. Sabatini said the draft concept plan is being worked on at this time. The Nader deliverable date is some time around May 2021. Asked for an update on grant writing searches. The Council wants to bring in another grant writer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 03-02-2021 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, seconded by Councilwoman Franco to approve the minutes as presented.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

CONSENT AGENDA – All are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Council and will be enacted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a citizen or Council member so requests in which event the item may be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Approval to Release 01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020 Closed Session Minutes
- B. Resolution No. 085-2021 – Resolution to Rescind Resolution No. 103-2020 Renewing a Plenary Retail Consumption License to Venture Two, LLC.
- C. Resolution No. 086-2021 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 275 Lot 735
- D. Resolution No. 087-2021 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing a Refund for Duplicate Payment for 1st Quarter 2021” – Block 275 Lot 735
- E. Resolution No. 088-2021 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes Be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2021” – Block 360 Lot 31.02
- F. Resolution No. 089-2021 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, Sate of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2021” – Block 360 Lot 31.06
- G. Resolution No. 090-2021 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2021” – Block 360 Lot 31.04
- H. Resolution No. 091-2021 – Resolution Granting North Jersey Auto Wreckers, Inc. a License for 2021 to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Byram Township Code
- I. Resolution No. 092-2021 – Resolution to Amend the 2021 Temporary Budget
- J. Resolution No. 093-2021 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 310, Lot 1947 for Tax Year 2021 and the Cancellation of Taxes for the Remainder of First Half 2021
- K. Resolution No. 094-2021 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Block 310, Lot 1947 Refund of Taxes Paid for 1st Quarter
- L. Resolution No. 095-2021 – Final Acceptance of Improvements to Whitehall Hill Road
- M. Resolution No. 096-2021 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Sewer Capacity Allocation Reservation Agreements between Byram Township and Stanhope Borough

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2 nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BILL LIST – March 16, 2021 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the bill list as presented.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No discussion items.

FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

Cannabis Legalization
 Fire Hydrant Clearing

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Jack Moran, 7 East Waterloo Road – Commented on Altese and Service Electric and thinks that franchise fee should be eliminated. He asked about what the American Recover Plan money can be spent on.

Jeanne Moran, 7 East Waterloo Road - Looked at the new logo and is not a fan. Lacks history and heritage.

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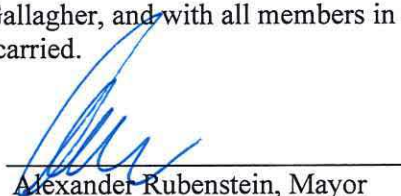
Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2 nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


 Cynthia Church, RMC


 Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor

