

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers, Memorial Municipal Building, 309 Main Street, Fort Lee, New Jersey.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Sokolich, Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Kasofsky, Cervieri

**ABSENT:** Councilman Drumgoole

**ALSO PRESENT:** Al Restaino, Borough Administrator  
Evelyn Rosario, Borough Clerk  
Daniel Lagana, Borough Attorney

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

In accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 adequate notice informing the public of the time and place of this meeting was emailed to the Record on October 17, 2025, and emailed to the Star Ledger on January 8, 2026. Said notice was duly posted to the official newspaper notices section of the Borough website and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board.

**MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“Just some brief remarks before we get started. I know the Council will have specific dates on certain things. I want to talk about what is the biggest challenge of the Borough of Fort Lee these days. Unfortunately, we do not monopolize this challenge, it is the same challenge that a lot of municipalities face which are finances. I have been serving as Mayor for eighteen years, including Council, twenty. At least my time here we have never had, and I think the Governing Body will agree, we have never had a more challenging budgetary cycle. And there are several reasons for that. Mainly the cost for everything has gone up. And because of sluggishness in the economy our assessments have gone up, do not forget we base our taxes on the value of real estate. So there are a lot of different things that are coming into play and it's the perfect storm to have a challenging budgetary cycle. Historically here in the Borough, our tolerance level for municipal tax increases, has always been to keep it as low as possible but, don't exceed 2 ½ - 3%. I am going to say 16 out of those 18 years we have done that, some years well under 3%, some years zero. This year is going to be our biggest challenge. Let me share some numbers with you. This is increases over the year 2025; the increase in health insurance cost from 2025 to 2026 is over 6 million dollars. Family plans under the policies we provide are in excess of, in some cases, 70 - 80 thousand dollars. Smaller plans are 40-50 thousand dollars, and this is not a phenomenon that is only happening in Fort Lee it is happening statewide. I am hearing stories speaking to other Mayors who are looking at 10-14% tax increase. That is not going to happen here because we are going to make sure it does not happen. I do want the public to know we are working feverishly to make sure we keep the rate as low as possible. The one thing that has gone down dramatically since last year is our debt service. We have been very efficient in making sure that we pay down our debt service so that those interest rates and payments stay as low as possible. Debt service will be brought down in excess of 2 million from 25-26 million which, I think is a big accomplishment. BCUA sur charges from the water treatment plan down at the BCUA, this is the water that we send down, the solid waste that gets treated and separated. The increase by the BCUA is almost a million dollars and this all adds up. We are working and taking steps to make sure that the taxpayers do not suffer all of the brunt of this. One of the things at the next work session, I have spoken to a few of my colleagues, we are going to talk about programs such as the hiring freeze in Fort Lee and putting a freeze on other expenditures. In fairness to my colleagues here, they have not given much thought to this as I only raised it to them a few hours ago. Other things we are going to talk about, we are meeting with all the Department Heads to decide what they can do without, what they can put off for a year or two, a stay on purchase of vehicles. You must understand when you

**Introduced on: February 19, 2026**

Council	Motion	Second	Vote
Sohmer			X
Yoon			X
Suh		X	X
Drumgoole			Absent
Kasofsky			X
Cervieri	X		X

**Adopted on: March 19, 2026**

Council	Motion	Second	Vote
Sohmer			X
Yoon			X
Suh			X
Drumgoole			Absent
Kasofsky		X	X
Cervieri	X		X

do a Borough wide freeze of something, that is always a net that includes a lot of things that you don't necessarily want to. If we did impose a hiring freeze, obviously the exception would be for essential employees, people that we need to ensure we preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the community. So, there will be exceptions to that but, it is something that we are at least going to talk about. I just want the Borough to know that in the face of insurance increases of almost 6 ½ million dollars, and the face of increases from the Bergen County Utilities Authority of over a million dollars, in the face of other increases, I want you to know that I and the Governing Body and all of our department heads are working as hard as we possibly can to make sure that the brunt of this is not visited upon our tax payers. Over the years we have enjoyed a lot of events in Fort Lee that are sponsored by Government, we don't intend to curtail them we intend to continue to have them. 2026, the timing is horrible, 2026 is a huge year as it's the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation. The World Cup is coming, we are going to have watch parties, parades, fireworks but, we just need to be careful with all other expenditures and we are in the process of doing it. So that is my report, we have a lot of challenges but, that is why we are here to make sure that we deliver to the community as best we can and at the same time mind what those costs are. Pardon the longer Mayors report to make but, thank you."

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the February 5, 2026, Work Session Meeting were approved.

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the February 19, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was approved.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None

**ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORD. 2026-4 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 388, SECTIONS 14 AND 69 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE, ENTITLED "HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES " (ADD: 1069 Old Bergen Blvd.)**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried, the public hearing was opened. There being no public discussion, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky.

**"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 388, SECTIONS 14 AND 69 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE, ENTITLED "HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES " (ADD: 1069 Old Bergen Blvd. )**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE as follows:

**Section I:** Chapter 388, Section 69, Schedule XXIII, is hereby amended and supplemented to **add** the following as a handicapped parking spaces:

**ADD**

**(dddd) 1069 Old Bergen Blvd.**

**Starting at the apex of Deerwood Road and Old Bergen Blvd, progressing approximately 353 feet south on the west curblin of Bergen Blvd and another 22 feet for a total of 375 feet south. This spot will be in front of 1069 Bergen Blvd along the west curblin.**

**Section II:** The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable; should any part, portion or provision hereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional, said finding shall not affect any other part, portion or provision thereof.

**Section III:** In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of Fort Lee, the provisions hereof shall be deemed to govern. All other parts, portions, and provisions of Chapter 388 are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent herewith.

**Section IV:** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publications according to law.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion by Councilman Cervieri seconded by Councilman Sohmer,** the Proposed Consent Agenda was introduced, and the public hearing was opened relative to items CA-1 through CA-20.

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
<b>Sohmer</b>						
<b>Yoon</b>						
<b>Suh</b>						
<b>Drumgoole</b>						X
<b>Kasofsky</b>		X				
<b>Cervieri</b>	X					

March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # CA-1 to CA-20  Carried: ___ Defeated: ___ Tabled: ___ Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>X</u>
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**CA-1 Payment of Claims**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the following claims, the details for which are attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby authorized to be paid, having been audited and found correct by the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

<b><u>ACCOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Current	\$ 6,630,514.08
Current - Wires	51,595,824.42
Capital	246,051.17
Capital Wires	5,000,000.00
Senior Citizen Advisory Council	
Trip Admissions	
Special Dog Account	
Trust Account Fund	42,165.00
TRUST WIRES	6,247.50
Redemption Account	
Senior Advisory (Close Acct)	84,839.58
Disability Insurance Trust	
Public Assistance Trust Fund	
Fort Lee Film Commission	
Community Development	
School Resource Account	
Dedicated Penalties (Fire Prevention)	
Fire Recycling Donation	
POAA	
Police Donation	
Police Activity Trust	
Police Justice	
Flexible Spending	
Trust Account	
Developers CONNECT ONE	45,791.19
Developers B of America	53.00

**Total: \$63,651,485.94**

**CA-2 Approving Jr. Auxiliary Membership Application for Nicholas Lopez, Fire Company #4 and Auxiliary Membership Applications for Anthony N. Mikitarian and Diana M. Salvaty, Fire Company #4.**

The Jr. Auxiliary Membership Application for Nicholas Lopez, Fire Company #4 and Auxiliary Membership Applications for Anthony N. Mikitarian and Diana M. Salvaty, Fire Company #4 were approved.

**CA-3 Authorizing the Expansion of Responsibilities of Kate Denis, Building Department and Authorizing a title Change to Keyboarding Clerk IV, Annual Salary \$72,454.00**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE EXPANDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KATE DENIS OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, due to a recent retirement in the Building Department, the Mayor and Council are desirous of expanding the responsibilities of Kate Denis of our Building Department; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, approved the promotion of Kate Denis to the title of Keyboarding Clerk IV at an annual salary of \$72,454.00, with an effective date of March 23, 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this title is provisional pending certification by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

**CA-4 Authorizing the Hiring of Various Spring Seasonal Employees in the Community Center for the Spring 2026 Season Ending June 19, 2026, Hourly Rate \$15.25-\$ 18.00**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SPRING SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee have authorized the hiring of spring seasonal employees; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the below listed individuals will be hired as spring seasonal employees to work at the Community Center, with an effective date provided by the Department Head to our Payroll Department; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said individuals be paid at an hourly rate as stipulated below, effective for the Spring 2026 season for the Community Center - for the period covering Spring 2026 and ending on June 19, 2026 .

Berlingo, Joseph	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Caratozzolo, Carmelo	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Caratozzolo, Francesco	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Celentano, Joe	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Chaez, Freddie	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Hanley, Mark	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Keller, Alan	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Paredes, Huasly	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Jaikissoon, Eric	Supervisor	Community Center	\$18.00
McCrary, Consuelo	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Nannas, Dimitri	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Scigliitano, Anthony	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25
Sutera, Nicholas	Supervisor	Community Center	\$15.25

**CA-5 Authorizing the Hiring of Various Spring Seasonal Employees in the Recreation**

**Department for the Spring 2026 Season Ending June 19, 2026, Hourly Rate \$15.25-\$30.00**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SPRING SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee have authorized the hiring of spring seasonal employees; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the below listed individuals will be hired as spring seasonal employees to work at the Recreation Department, with an effective date provided by the Department Head to our Payroll Department; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said individuals be paid at an hourly rate as stipulated below, **effective for the Spring 2026 season for the Recreation Department - for the period covering Spring 2026 and ending on June 19, 2026** .

Asharian, Laudan	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Berlingo, Joseph	Recreation/Youth Center Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.50
Caratozzolo, Alessandro	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.25
Gulsen, Berkan	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Huertas, Michael	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.50
Katjomuise, Kyle	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.50
Khatchadourian, Natalie	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Kellas, Kim	Crafts Instructor	Recreation Department	\$20.00
Morell, Samuel	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.25
Nola, Melina	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.25
Rodriguez, James	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Rosa, Shaina	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Samuel-Olagunju, Jason	Recreation Attendant	Recreation Department	\$15.50
Samuel-Olagunju, Joanne	Recreation/Youth Center Supervisor	Recreation Department	\$17.00
Schiff, Barry	Adult Art Instructor	Recreation Department	\$30.00

**CA-6 Authorizing the Extension of the Appointment of Sindy Singh, Public Health Planner with the Health Department, Effective April 1, 2026, Through July 31, 2026, Annual Salary \$67,753.00**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNER WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Borough of Fort Lee Health Officer, Ms. Jill Scarpa has recommended that Ms. Sindy Singh, Public Health Planner, be appointed with funding available through the Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that Ms. Sindy Singh’s appointment be extended to a full-time, temporary position as Public Health Planner under the Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant, for the period from April 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment shall be at an annual salary of **\$67,753.00** to be paid through the ELPHI Grant.

**CA-7 Authorizing the appointment of School Crossing Guards: H. S. Alali, R. D. Rich and T. Upreti, \$26.11 Hourly**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPOINTING SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that the following individuals be appointed as a School Crossing Guard in the Borough of Fort Lee without authority to carry a firearm:

- Haia S. Alali
- Rashe D. Rich
- Trilochan Upreti

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Police Department will provide the above individuals' effective date for the school year to the Payroll Department, with an **hourly rate of \$26.11** .

**CA-8 Accepting Retirement Notice of Police Officer Nicholas Mircovich, Effective May 1, 2026**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT NOTICE OF POLICE OFFICER NICHOLAS MIRCOVICH , WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Police Officer Nicholas Mircovich has submitted a retirement notice and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Police Officer Mircovich's retirement will be effective May 1, 2026 with the Borough of Fort Lee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Police Officer Mircovich on his retirement.

**CA-9 Accepting Retirement Notice of Keith McCabe, Laborer, Department of Public Works, Effective Retroactive to March 1, 2026**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT NOTICE OF KEITH MCCABE, LABORER , WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Keith McCabe, Laborer, with the Department of Public Works has submitted a retirement notice dated February 5, 2026 and the Mayor and Council have accepted same; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Mr. McCabe's retirement will be effective retroactive to March 1, 2026 with the Borough of Fort Lee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council extend their best wishes to Mr. McCabe on his retirement.

**CA-10 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Fort Lee and the Borough of Edgewater for the use of Fort Lee 's Radio Communications Personnel for the Installation and Maintenance of Radio Communication Equipment**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF EDGEWATER FOR THE USE OF FORT LEE'S RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IN EDGEWATER'S EMERGENCY SERVICES VEHICLES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee ("Borough") is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey in the County of Bergen, established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:60-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Edgewater ("Edgewater") is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey in the County of Bergen, established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:60-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough and Edgewater currently provide for a sharing of various municipal services through the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., that results in efficiencies for the benefits of the taxpayers in each municipality; and

**WHEREAS** the Borough employs radio communications personnel for operation and maintenance of the Borough's public safety communications system for the benefit of its emergency responders and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Edgewater has a need to utilize the Borough's radio communications personnel to assist it in the installation and maintenance of Edgewater's radio communication equipment for its emergency services vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the entry into a Shared Services Agreement with Edgewater for the use of the Borough's radio communications personnel to assist Edgewater in the installation and maintenance of radio communication equipment for its emergency services vehicles will not result in any costs being incurred by the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Shared Services Agreement has a term of one (1) year, and may be extended for a period of one (1) year at the mutual option of both the Borough and Edgewater; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes to enter into the Shared Services Agreement, substantially similar to the agreement attached hereto, for the shared use of the Borough's radio communications personnel to assist Edgewater in the installation and maintenance of radio communication equipment for its emergency services vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the entry into the Shared Services Agreement with Edgewater complies with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act and is in the best interests of the Borough;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That entry into the Shared Services Agreement with Edgewater, upon terms substantially similar to the agreement attached hereto, is pursuant to and in accordance with the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., and is hereby authorized.
2. That the Mayor shall be and is hereby authorized to execute an agreement, in substantially the same form as that attached hereto, between the Borough and Edgewater, memorializing the terms and conditions for the share use of the Borough's radio communications personnel to assist Edgewater in the installation and maintenance of radio communication equipment for its emergency services vehicles.
3. That upon execution of the Shared Services Agreement, this resolution and the agreement between the parties shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk.
4. That no further action of the Borough shall be required.

**CA-11 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application Funded by PSE&G Sustainable Jersey Program, \$20,000.00**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION FUNDED BY PSE&G**

**WHEREAS**, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic, and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air, and water, improve working and living environments, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by PSEG;

**THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee has determined that the Borough should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey grant funded by PSEG in the amount of \$20,000.

**CA-12 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Capitol Police**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee Police Department and the United States Capitol Police Department seek to define their working relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to ensure that points of contact, reimbursement procedures, and other administrative requirements are established in advance, should United States Capitol Police Department ever need to request mutual aid from our Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, this Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework that allows for financial reimbursement to the Borough should assistance be provided at the request of the United States Capitol Police Department, and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorandum of Understanding does not obligate the Borough to provide resources without prior coordination and approval, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee hereby authorizes the Mayor Mark J. Sokolich to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Capitol Police Department.

**CA-13 Authorizing Budget Transfers**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the following 2025 budget appropriation reserve transfers are hereby made, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58, not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Governing Body concurring:

	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>
Police S/W	75,000	
Buildings & Grounds S/W	20,000	
Dispatch S/W	20,000	
Water O/E	50,000	

Gasoline O/E	25,000	
Sewer O/E	30,000	
Tax Assessment O/E	10,000	
Purchasing O/E	2,500	
Administration O/E		10,000
Mayor & Council O/E		5,000
Legal O/E		20,000
Engineering O/E		20,000
Economic Development O/E		1,000
Unemployment		9,000
Dispatch O/E		500
Ambulance O/E		1,000
Fire Protection O/E		4,000
Roads O/E		22,000
Buildings/Grounds O/E		6,000
I.T. O/E		3,000
Auto Repair O/E		92,000
Community Center O/E		25,000
Parks & Playgrounds O/E		8,000
Electric O/E		6,000
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>\$232,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$232,500</u></b>

**CA-14 Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Overpayment of Property Taxes, 2165 Jones Road, \$5,108.92**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND OVERPAYMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector for the Borough of Fort Lee requests authorization to refund tax overpayments/SID overpayments, as detailed within this resolution, and be refunded with the proper documentation; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:49-16 permits the Tax Collector to refund these tax overpayments/SID overpayments.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the specified accounts have the appropriate amounts to be refunded for the reasons indicated in the resolution.

2165 Jones Rd.	
B: 5451 Lot: 9 Qual: C2165	\$5,108.92

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF REFUNDS: \$5,108.92**

Reason for Refunds:  
Corelogic paid in error.

**CA-15 Granting a Disabled Veteran 's Property Tax Exemption, 17 Cumbermeade Road #102**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE GRANTING A DISABLED VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO MAKSYM GUNKO AT 17 CUMBERMEADE ROAD #102; BLOCK: 553 LOT: 4 QUAL: C0102**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 the Tax Assessor has granted a Disabled Veteran's exemption on the property located at 17 Cumbermeade Rd. #102, Block: 553 Lot: 4 Qual: C0102; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owner Maksym Gunko is entitled to a 100% real estate tax exemption commencing on December 23, 2025, and thereafter. As per the Tax Assessor his

condominium has been placed on the tax-exempt list starting January 1, 2027.; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector-CFO be authorized to issue a refund of 100% of the property taxes collected from

December 23, 2025 through present made payable to:

Maksym Gunko  
17 Cumbermeade Rd. #102  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

**CA-16 Granting a Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Exemption, 2329 Hudson Terrace #A4**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE GRANTING A DISABLED VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO DANNY BENITEZ AT 2329 HUDSON TERRACE, #A4; BLOCK: 6855 LOT: 3 QUAL: C00A4**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 the Tax Assessor has granted a Disabled Veteran's exemption on the property located at 2329 Hudson Terrace #A4, Block: 6855 Lot: 3 Qual: C00A4; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owner Danny Beintez is entitled to a 100% real estate tax exemption commencing on August 10, 2022 and thereafter. As per the Tax Assessor his cooperative apartment has been placed on the tax-exempt list starting January 1, 2026.; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector-CFO be authorized to issue a refund of 100% of the property taxes collected from August 10, 2022 through present made payable to:

Danny Benitez  
2329 Hudson Terrace #A4  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

**CA-17 Approving the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg- Stravaganza , March 28, 2026**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING A REQUEST TO PERMIT THE 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee received a request on March 1, 2026, seeking approval to hold the 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt; and

**WHEREAS**, the 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 11 am; and

**WHEREAS**, the 6th Annual Easter Egg-Stravaganza will be held in Constitution Park, located at 2018 Fletcher Ave; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, grants permission for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

**CA-18 Approving a Request from the Fort Lee Business District Alliance to hold a Series of 2026 Events in Borough**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING A REQUEST FROM THE FORT LEE BUSINESS DISTRICT ALLIANCE TO HOLD A SERIES OF EVENTS IN THE BOROUGH**

**WHEREAS**, correspondence was received on February 3, 2026 from Ms. Natalie Chape, Executive Director of the Fort Lee Business District Alliance requesting authorization to conduct a series of events in the Borough, some of which require road closures; and

**WHEREAS**, the events include:

- April 7, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- May 2, 2026 Artisan Market - 12 pm-5 pm - Be Fort Lee Park
- May 5, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- June 2, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- June 12, 2026 Summer Sounds at the Commons - 6 pm-8 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- June 13, 2026 Artisan Market - 12 pm-5 pm - Be Fort Lee Park
- July 7, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- July 12, 2026 Concours on the Palisades -10 am-2 pm - Main Street Center - Lemoine Ave & PA Parking Lot (Rain Date: 8/16)
- July 10, 2026 Summer Sounds at the Commons - 6 pm-8 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- August 4, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- August 7, 2026 Summer Sounds at the Commons - 6 pm-8 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- August 8, 2026 Artisan Market - 4 pm-9 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- September 8, 2026 Coffee at the Commons - 9:30 am-10:30 am - Fort Lee Commons
- September 12, 2026 Artisan Market - 12 pm-5 pm - Be Fort Lee Park
- September 18, 2026 Summer Sounds at the Commons - 6 pm-8 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- October 10, 2026 Artisan Market - 12 pm-5 pm - Be Fort Lee Park
- October 24, 2026 Fall-O-Ween - 11 am-3 pm - Be Fort Lee Park
- December 5, 2026 European-Style Night Market - 4 pm-9 pm - Fort Lee Commons
- December 12, 2026 Santa Saturday - 12 pm-3 pm - Fort Lee Commons; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, grants permission to the Fort Lee Business District Alliance to conduct a series of events in the Borough as listed above.

**CA-19 Approving a Request from the Hellenic Civic Club to Host Its 2026 Greek Independence Day Celebration at the Richard and Catherine Nest Activity Center on March 22, 2026**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING A REQUEST FROM THE HELLENIC CIVIC CLUB TO HOST ITS 2026 GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT THE RICHARD & CATHERINE NEST ACTIVITY CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee received a request from the Hellenic Civic Club seeking permission to utilize the Richard & Catherine Nest Adult Activity Center for its 2026 Greek Independence Day Celebration on March 22, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, grants permission to the Hellenic Civic Club for its 2026 Greek Independence Day Celebration to be held at the Richard & Catherine Nest Adult Activity Center on March 22, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

**CA-20 Approving a Request from the Fort Lee High School Prism Club to Hold an Event at the Fort Lee Recreation Center on June 6, 2026**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING A REQUEST FROM THE PRISM CLUB AT FORT LEE HIGH SCHOOL TO HOLD AN EVENT AT THE FORT LEE RECREATION CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, a request was received from Hudson Albanese, Co-President and Diana Ladd, Advisor of the PRISM Club at Fort Lee High School, seeking approval to hold a Celebration of Pride Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Celebration of Pride Month is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM; and

**WHEREAS**, the Celebration of Pride Month will take place at the Fort Lee Recreation Center, 500 Stillwell Avenue; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, grants permission to the PRISM Club at Fort Lee High School for the Celebration of Pride Month to be held at the Fort Lee Recreation Center on June 6, 2026.

There being no discussion, the public hearing was closed on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky. The Consent Agenda regarding CA-1 through CA-20 was approved on the following roll call:

**AYES: Council Members Sohmer, Yoon, Suh, Kasofsky, Cervieri**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**R-1 Authorizing the Designation of Depositories for the Year 2026**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh		X	X			
Drumgoole						X
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-1  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>   </u> Tabled: <u>   </u>  Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>   </u>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF LEE AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 requires the governing body to designate a depository or depositories for its monies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Fort Lee recommended that the following banks be named as depositories:

- Bank of America, Fort Lee, NJ
- TD Bank, Fort Lee, NJ
- ConnectOne Bank
- 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution Bank
- State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund
- PNC Bank, Fort Lee, NJ
- Noah Bank, Fort Lee, NJ
- Wilshire State Bank, Fort Lee, NJ
- Wells Fargo, Fort Lee, NJ
- Spencer’s Savings Bank, Elmwood Park, NJ
- Santander Bank, Fort Lee, NJ
- Kearny Bank, Woodridge, NJ
- First Bergen Federal Credit Union, Hackensack, NJ

Freedom Bank, Maywood, NJ  
 BCB Bank, Bayonne, NJ  
 Alma Bank, Fort Lee, NJ  
 Valley National Bank, Fort Lee, NJ

**WHEREAS**, this resolution shall supersede Resolution Number R-5, January 6, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee, that the above named banks are hereby designated as depositories for the Current, Capital and Welfare sections of the accounts of the Borough of Fort Lee for 2026.

**R-2 Authorizing the Adoption of the Cash Management Plan for the Year 2026**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Drumgoole						X
Kasofsky		X	X			
Cervieri	X		X			

March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-2  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>   </u> Tabled: <u>   </u>  Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>   </u>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE BOROUGH’S CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2026**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 requires the Borough of Fort Lee to adopt a Cash Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee adopts its Cash Management Plan annually; and

**WHEREAS**, this Cash Management Plan shall be designated to assure the extent practicable the investment of local funds in interest bearing accounts and may be modified from time to time in order to reflect changes in Federal or State law or regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution shall supersede Resolution Number R-5, January 6, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of Fort Lee Cash Management Plan be continued for 2026.

**R-3 Authorizing a Property Tax Refund Pursuant to Tax Court of New Jersey Order and Final Judgment, 820 Kingsland Lane, Block 155, Lot 3, Qualifier C0820**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh		X	X			
Drumgoole						X
Kasofsky			X			
Cervieri	X		X			

March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-3  Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: <u>   </u> Tabled: <u>   </u>  Approved on Consent Agenda: <u>   </u>
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING A TAX REFUND PURSUANT TO TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT BLOCK 155, LOT 3, QUALIFIER C0820**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Fort Lee filed a "Correction of Error" complaint in the Tax Court of New Jersey, concerning an added assessment for the 2024 tax year on property owned by Jisoo Sim and Dong Wook Kim; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject property is located at 820 Kingsland Lane, Fort Lee, New

Jersey, and is further identified as Block 155, Lot 3, Qualifier C0820; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Tax Assessor determined that a clerical error occurred where an added assessment was mistakenly calculated for a six (6) month period based on an incorrect Certificate of Occupancy date of June 28, 2024, rather than the correct date of September 6, 2024, which should have triggered a three (3) month added assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, this clerical error resulted in the property being overcharged for the 2024 tax year, tax records indicate that the original, higher added assessment was paid in full by the property owners on or about October 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Court entered an Order and Final Judgment on February 12, 2026, officially correcting the added assessment for the 2024 tax year to reflect the three (3) month pro-rated period, to reduce the pro-rated assessment from \$225,550 to \$112,775; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee that the Borough Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to issue a refund in the amount of \$2,940.04 to the property owners, representing the overpayment of 2024 added taxes as mandated by the Tax Court of New Jersey.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk shall keep a copy of this Resolution on file and available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk and shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor; Business Administrator; Borough Attorney; Borough Tax Collector and Borough Tax Assessor.

**R-4 Authorizing a Name Change to Cannabis License No. 2025-97 from GW Leaf Dispensary, LLC to Indoor Treez, LLC**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Sohmer			X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Drumgoole						X
Kasofsky		X	X			
Cervieri	X		X			

March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-4 Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: ___ Tabled: ___ Approved on Consent Agenda: ___
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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AUTHORIZING A NAME CHANGE TO CANNABIS LICENSE NO. 2025-97 FROM GW LEAF DISPENSARY, LLC TO INDOOR TREEZ, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, on November 21, 2025, the Borough of Fort Lee issued Cannabis License Number 2025-97 to GW Leaf Dispensary, LLC, 2143 Route 4, Fort Lee, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, GW Leaf Dispensary LLC has notified the Borough of Fort Lee of a name change; and

**WHEREAS**, GW Leaf Dispensary, LLC has received authorization from the State of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission authorizing the name change to Indoor Treez, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey Regulatory Commission has issued License No. RE001011, to Indoor Treez, LLC, previously under the name of GW Leaf Dispensary, LLC.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fort Lee that Fort Lee Cannabis License Number 2025-97 be and is hereby amended to reflect the name **Indoor Treez, LLC** effective March 20, 2026.

**R-5 Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement Between the Borough of Fort Lee and the Estate of Mildred Docktor**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting  Resolution # R-5 Carried: <u>X</u> Defeated: ___ Tabled: ___
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Sohmer		X	X			
Yoon			X			
Suh			X			
Drumgoole						X
Kasofsky					RECUSED	
Cervieri	X		X			

\*Councilwoman Kasofsky stepped away from the dais

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF FORT LEE AND THE ESTATE OF MILDRED DOCKTOR**

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2025, the Estate of Mildred Docktor (“Docktor”) filed a Verified Complaint in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division docketed as BER-C-120 -25 against the Borough of Fort Lee (“the Borough”) seeking to establish access rights in favor of real property owned by Docktor on real property owned by the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, a settlement has been reached among Dockter and the Borough (collectively “the parties”); and

**WHEREAS**, the parties, after due consideration, wish to completely and permanently resolve any and all differences existing among them; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties have negotiated a Settlement Agreement which will resolve their differences;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fort Lee in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Settlement Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and to take any and all actions to effectuate the Settlement Agreement.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Councilman Sohmer** - He congratulated Police Officer Mircovich and Keith McCabe on their retirements. He expressed the Barrymore Film Center honors the legacy of film and encouraged the public to become a member and/or give the gift of film by purchasing a gift card at the box office or online. He wished everyone a Happy Passover.

**Councilman Yoon** - No report this evening.

**Councilman Suh** - Recreation girls basketball games will be held this Saturday at the Middle School followed by the closing ceremonies. Softball tryouts will be held this Sunday at the Community Center. He wished everyone a happy Passover & Easter and looks forward to the Easter Eggstravaganza being held Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> at Constitution Park.

**Councilwoman Kasofsky** - NJ Healthcare and Quality Institutes Mayors Wellness Campaign awarded the Borough of Fort Lee with the Prestigious Healthy Town award for 2025, the second consecutive year. She mentioned all the upcoming events to be held hosted by the Health Department. She wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover.

**Councilman Cervieri** - He mentioned tomorrow marks the end of Ramadan and wished all a happy and safe holiday.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened to the public for discussion.

Mr. Bruce Carlson, Fort Lee Coytesville resident, came forward and thanked the Mayor and Council for a very well-run town especially during the snowstorm. He questioned the outcome of the potential filing of bankruptcy for IPIC Theaters.

Mayor Sokolich and Councilman Cervieri explained they are cognitive of the situation and confident the space will be well rented in the near future.

There being no further public discussion, the public hearing was closed **on motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Council woman Kasofsky .**

On motion by Councilman Cervieri, seconded by Councilwoman Kasofsky, and there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with no objections at 7:30 p.m.

Prepared By:

Nadine Drumgoole, RMC, CMC  
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Constantina Roditis, RMC  
Municipal Clerk's Office

Rosa Tropea  
Municipal Clerk's Office

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Evelyn Rosario, RMC, CMC, MMC  
Municipal Clerk