WORK SESSION OF APRIL 14, 2020

Mayor Peluso called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Manager Van Kruiningen read the following Public Notice from the Borough of Fair Lawn:

Please be advised, that pursuant to the State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency declared and set forth in New Jersey Executive Order No. 103, and further limitations on public gatherings as set forth in Executive Order No. 104, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey shall hold a Work Session on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm, with no members of the public physically present in conjunction with the closing of the Municipal Building to the general public. Should you wish to watch or participate in this Work Session, you may by doing any of the following:

- You can watch the meeting live streamed on our website www.fairlawn.org OR you can watch the meeting broadcasted live by Fair Lawn TV on Cablevision Channel 77 or Verizon FIOS Channel 37.

AND

- If you would like to participate in the public portion of the Work Session from home, you can submit a question found below the live stream video on the Borough’s website. This link will not be active until the public comment portion of the meeting. Also, should you wish to ask a question on-line, you must enter your name and a valid address with your question to confirm you are a resident of Fair Lawn.

AND/OR

- You can call 201-564-6185 to participate in the public portion of the meeting from home. This phone line will only be answered during the public comment portion of the meeting. You will be required to provide your name and address to your question.

PRESENT: Mayor Peluso, Deputy Mayors Reinitz and Rottenstrich, Councilmembers Cutrone and Krause.

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Van Kruiningen, Municipal Clerk Bojanowski and Attorney Verrone.

REVIEW TENTATIVE AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Reinitz stated that assuming they were going to be doing this via teleconference again and assuming that they were limited by their ability to
gather, he felt they should think about taking off items that weren't absolutely necessary. He suggested they carry the Ordinance Banning Single Use Plastic Bags to the May meeting. He noted that Glen Rock has just put a ban on their ordinance for 60 days.

Mayor Peluso stated that he knew about Glen Rock's ban. He suggested they reschedule this for the June meeting. Councilmember Cutrone agreed.

There was a unanimous consensus to move the second hearing on the ordinance banning single use plastics to the June Council Meeting.

There were no other changes to the agenda.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Krause stated this has been a difficult and strange month for all of them in many different ways. He thanked everyone whose jobs are essential and are continuing to work, despite the risk. All of them are indebted to the work that they are doing. He extended his condolences to anyone who has lost loved ones, including the eight Fair Lawn residents who have passed away as a result of the virus. To everyone that is fortunate that their loved ones are okay, he wanted to thank them for doing their best under these circumstances and for staying the course and not going out of the house unless necessary.

He thanked the Borough Manager and Borough employees for the great work that they have been doing. He thanked Mayor Peluso for everything he has done and for the updates he is giving the residents. He asked residents to support our local restaurants. He noted there is information on social media regarding a Fair Lawn Food Fund that was organized for people who are working on the front lines. He hopes that everyone is staying safe.

Councilmember Cutrone echoed Councilmember Krause's comments thanking the essential workers, the Borough Manager, the OEM Coordinator and all of the Borough employees and volunteers that are out there every day keeping us safe. She extended her condolences to the Fair Lawn residents who lost family members to the virus.

She stated that the Fair Lawn Pays It Forward program is purchasing dinners from local businesses and sending them to hospital workers. Funds can be sent through Venmo@Danielle-Reiffe.

She stated that the Age-Friendly initiative launched with the grant they received from the Taub Foundation to make Fair Lawn a place where seniors can age in place is moving forward. Their survey is in its second draft and when things get back to normal, it will be distributed to their seniors. They will be launching a
Facebook page soon that will explain the initiative. This will also be another platform for them to reach seniors to see if anyone needs help or information.

She stated that the Council called about 100 seniors to make sure they were okay. She thanked the Manager for helping to organize CERT volunteers, who also called to check in on residents to make sure they had what they needed, particularly those who cannot get out. She spoke with other towns who have this Age-Friendly initiative and they have been focusing mostly on homebound seniors. She is going to continue to work on this and share best practices with our people. She has asked the Manager if there were fitness videos that could be emailed to seniors.

She encouraged residents to check out the Arts Council Facebook page, as they have posted activities to do at home with family members. The Community Relations Advisory Committee has posted webinars online.

She concluded by stating that it seems like social distancing will need to continue for a little longer. She recommended finding another platform to use for Council meetings so that they are more visual. She knows there were some security issues with Zoom, but new measures have been implemented with the subscription package. If not Zoom then another program, as it would be nice to see everyone. If they hold a Zoom meeting in a webinar style it is even safer.

Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich also felt it was critical that they move to a visual platform for both the Work Sessions and Council Meetings, and also committee meetings. This is an ongoing issue and with possible periodic closings. They need to have a plan in place, as using the phone is only a stop-gap measure. She has been using Zoom for work and industry webinars and felt it might be something they should consider.

There was a unanimous consensus that Manager Van Kruiningen research other meeting options.

Councilmember Cutrone thanked Mayor Peluso for all he is doing. His messages have been great and she appreciates his leadership.

Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich thanked Mayor Peluso for everything he has done during this time, for serving as the face of Fair Lawn and for getting the messages out. She thanked the Borough employees and first responders, who are doing an amazing job.

She reported that the Census Committee is still working, but they are trying to be deliberate in their messaging so as not to conflict with the Borough’s messages about the COVID 19 status. She asked Manager Van Kruiningen to buy some lawn signs to remind residents about completing their Census response, which will be placed in areas with a lower response rate. The time frame for filing has been extended so they will continue their efforts.
With regards to exercise videos to seniors, perhaps the instructors from the Senior Center could make some videos that could be played on Fair Lawn TV. Councilmember Cutrone thought that was a good idea.

There was a unanimous consensus to have Manager Van Kruiningen look into placing exercise videos for seniors on Fair Lawn TV.

Deputy Mayor Reinitz echoed the previous comments of the Council. He felt the Borough was in a good place because of the leadership they have in place, starting with the Mayor. He has been out in front and has shown the proper balance needed for good leadership. The steps taken by the Manager, his office and OEM Director Alvarez project an aura of calmness that everything is under control.

He would like to thank our first responders, as he knows that the number of calls handled by the Ambulance Corps were extremely high the first few weeks. They have a large number of volunteers willing to go out on calls and risk their safety to serve the community and they should be honored for their efforts. The Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad have helped deliver meals to seniors and are doing a drive by at the homes of children celebrating their birthday. It shows what our community is all about and how we rally around each other and show kindness to each other. The fact that Fair Lawn has come together to take care of each other is something we can all be proud of.

He wanted to highlight the business community. The BBIC and RRIC have done a tremendous job on social media and have put together a list of restaurants that are still open to promote business. From what he has seen and heard, people are making an effort to go out and support our local businesses. He also thanked the EDC for their efforts in putting together a list of open businesses. He thanked the Library for all the work it has done in putting out content and making activities available for people while we are at home.

He concluded by encouraging residents to keep checking in on their neighbors.

Mayor Peluso echoed everyone’s comments. He couldn’t be more proud of the work of everyone at Borough Hall and all of our volunteers, especially our first responders. He thanked all the healthcare workers, many of whom reside in Fair Lawn, for stepping up to help others.

He thanked the Rescue Squad, CERT volunteers, the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Squad, the Fire Department and the Police Department for doing an amazing job. He appreciated the hard work they were doing day in and day out. He thanked them for making sure the Borough was safe.

He thanked Fair Lawn TV for being present to broadcast the Work Session and for constantly providing residents with updates on their channel, which can be
accessed through either Verizon FIOS or Optimum. A volunteer from Fair Lawn TV has been translating the messages into Russian so that the Russian community can be kept aware of what is going on. He thanked Fair Lawn TV for going above and beyond in keeping our residents informed.

He thanked the Borough employees, who are stepping up and doing everything they can do during this time. He rode through Gregory Park on a bike ride and saw a member of the Parks Department cleaning the benches to keep them disinfected. The extra steps taken to keep Fair Lawn safe are always appreciated.

He thanked Manager Van Kruiningen and OEM Director Alvarez. He is on weekly calls with the County and the State, and Fair Lawn is above and beyond many other municipalities. He knows it is due to the leadership of OEM Director Alvarez and Manager Van Kruiningen, who have put the Borough ahead of the curve by making sure they had the right supplies, the right people and the right measures in place. He thanked them for their hard work.

He concluded by stating that this is going to go on a lot longer than they had originally hoped and planned for. He urged residents to continue practicing social distancing and he stressed the importance of continuing to wash their hands. Let’s help end this by doing the right things and taking those important steps to help keep everyone safe.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2539-2020
(RESOLUTION NO. 156-2020)

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF PART-TIME SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – CLASS II PERSONNEL OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AS AMENDED

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilmember Cutrone and a second by Councilmember Krause, Resolution No. 156-2020 introducing Ordinance No. 2539 – 2020 was unanimously passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2540-2020
(RESOLUTION NO. 157-2020)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT AND BUDGETS AND FISCAL PROCEDURES, ARTICLE XIX, BUDGET AND FISCAL PROCEDURES OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 2000

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich and a second by Deputy Mayor Reinitz, Resolution No. 157-2020 was discussed.
Councilmember Cutrone thanked CFO Palermo and Manager Van Kruiningen for keeping them in such a great fiscal position, which enables them to deal with the current situation effectively.

There be no further discussion, Resolution No. 157-2020, introducing Ordinance No. 2540 – 2020 was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 158-2020 – AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY WAIVING OF WATER UTILITY DELINQUENT CHARGES AND SHUT-OFFS**

There being no discussion, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Reinitz and a second by Councilmember Krause, Resolution No. 158-2020 was unanimously passed.

Manager Van Kruiningen asked the Council’s permission to discuss one additional item.

He referenced his email sent this morning. As they are aware, the Memorial Day Parade takes a lot of coordination, logistics and scheduling. After discussing all of these issues with Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli, Veterans Council Commander Dave Boone and Superintendent of Recreation and Parks, Jim Graff, it was decided that in light of the COVID 19 pandemic they all agree and recommend that, unfortunately, the Memorial Day Parade be cancelled. Participation in the Veterans banner program has increased to 150 this year due to Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli’s outstanding effort. The banners will still be mounted and they will look into possibly holding a parade in the fall.

Mayor Peluso stated this was unfortunate, as the Memorial Day Parade was something they all looked forward to. They love their veterans and will do whatever they can once this is over to make sure they are recognized for their service.

Deputy Mayor Reinitz asked Manager Van Kruiningen if they could agree tonight to trim the parade down tremendously but not completely cancel the parade until the first week in May. Manager Van Kruiningen stated they have discussed all aspects of this and they do not feel a scaled down venue would work. It is a very difficult decision to make, but it is necessary in order to protect the health and safety of the community. Hopefully they can do something in the fall.

Deputy Mayor Reinitz asked what other communities were doing about their parade. Manager Van Kruiningen stated Fair Lawn is being prepared, like they always are, and is taking this initiative far in advance before the actual event occurs. They have already met to discuss the fireworks, which is scheduled for July 1st. This is what Fair Lawn needed to do. He was not aware what other towns were doing with regards to their parades.

Councilmember Cutrone asked Manager Van Kruiningen if there was any discussion about doing a July 4th/Memorial Day Parade. Manager Van Kruiningen
stated they discussed that option, but they are concerned it would be too difficult for the veterans and the various bands to march in a parade in July due to the heat. That is why they are looking at the fall.

Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich agreed that they should not hold the parade. She wondered if they could still plan a Memorial Day ceremony with appropriate social distancing. Manager Van Kruiningen stated he will discuss it with Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli. There are other events held Memorial Day weekend, but he did not know if they were cancelled.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich and a second by Councilmember Cutrone, it was unanimously agreed to cancel the Memorial Day Parade and try to reschedule it in the fall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli stated there was a comment left without a name or address that read “Thank you to the Council and the Borough Manager for your leadership during this crazy time. I am sure for all of you on the Council, when you decided to run for public office, there is no way you could have imagined the burden of responsibility that is on your shoulders. Thank you again.”

Manager Van Kruiningen stated that if anyone livestreaming or watching on Fair Lawn TV wanted to call in a comment, they should call 201-564-6185.

Mayor Peluso thanked the person for the kind words.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Upon motion by Councilmember Cutrone and a second by Deputy Mayor Rottenstrich, the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 8:02 p.m.

WHEREAS; the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS; the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn desire to discuss Personnel – Permanent Part-Time Employees and Emergency First Responders.

WHEREAS; these matters are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions; and

WHEREAS; minutes will be taken during this closed session and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists the minutes will be available to the public.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn that the public be excluded since these matters as set forth above are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions.

Manager Van Kruiningen advised Fair Lawn TV that the viewing and public portion of the meeting is now over. Fair Lawn TV should discontinue providing the livestream. He asked Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli to confirm that the livestream is off online. Chief of Staff/Veterans Director Magarelli confirmed that it was off.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Councilmember Krause and a second by Deputy Mayor Reinitz, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC
Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

Mayor Kurt Peluso

Deputy Mayor Josh Reinitz

Councilmember Cristina Cutrone

Deputy Mayor Gail Rottenstrich

Councilmember Kris Krause