

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hackensack was held at City Hall, 65 Central Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey, on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 8:00 P.M.

Mayor Gaines called the meeting to order and the Deputy City Clerk announced, "This meeting is being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meeting Act," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice having been published according to law, with a copy on file in the City Clerk's Office, and a copy posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall."

Attendance

Ms. Saabye called the roll: Mayor Gaines, Deputy Mayor Toomey, Councilwoman Clark-Collins, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Diaz were present. City Manager Thomas Freeman was present. City Attorney Richard Malagiere was present. Deputy City Clerk Allison Saabye was present.

Flag Salute

Proclamations and Presentations – Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Hispanic Heritage Month

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the COW, Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2025, was offered by Councilwoman Clark Collins, seconded by Councilman Diaz and approved by Mayor Gaines, Deputy Mayor Toomey, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Diaz and Councilwoman Clark-Collins.

City Manager's Report

The Veteran Banner program is still on-going. We still have plenty of spots for the next round. Contact the City Manager's office for details on how to sign up or you can sign up through rec desk. The City newsletter – visit the City website on how to sign up for the newsletter that comes out every Friday. It is very informative. Hackensacktoberfest was a great success last week. Thank you to the Main Street Business Alliance and every city department whose dedication and teamwork made this event possible. Your hard work, creativity, and commitment truly brought our community together. The Hackensack Municipal Alliance presents Hidden in Plain Sight, an interactive drug awareness program for parents. Discover how everyday items in your teen's room can hide drug use or risky behavior. Join us at the Hackensack Performing Arts Center on October 16 at 6:30 for this eye opening presentation. Also, another reminder the pumpkin carving contest is ongoing. Instructions are on the website. It involves Instagram so all you young people are familiar. Every like gets you one vote. Submission deadline is October 31. Winners will be announced November 1. Some other events coming up are Slam Dunk the Junk on October 25. It is back. Registration is open until October 17. We are excited to have you join our upcoming community clean up event. Your participation helps keep our parks and public spaces clean and beautiful and your group can earn a \$500 clean communities grant. Visit our website for more information and to register. The annual Halloween party – The City of Hackensack and Recreation Department invites families to a free annual Halloween party on Saturday October 25 from 10AM to 12PM at the Rec Center. Enjoy a fun filled variety show, sweet treats, and a festive costume parade. Costumes are encouraged but please note, no costume weapons will be allowed. HACPAC events – Howdy Stanger's Zombie Apocalypse October 18th at 8PM, David Myoko's Electrifying Tribute to Liberace October 24th at 7:30, Swinging with the Rat Pack October 26th at 8PM. Visit the performing arts center website for more information.

Resolutions

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins			X				
Carroll	X		X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 432-25

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 45-2025, AN
ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 170 OF THE CODE OF
THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,”
TO ADD A NEW HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN
SECTION 49.2, “PARKING FOR THE HANDICAPPED”**

BE IT RESOLVED that the above ordinance, being Ordinance 45-2025 as introduced, does now pass on first reading and that said Ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on October 28, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the regular meeting place of the City Council and at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance and that the City Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 45-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 170 OF THE CODE OF THE
CITY OF HACKENSACK, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,” TO ADD A
NEW HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN SECTION 49.2,
“PARKING FOR THE HANDICAPPED”**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal, and enforce such other ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws not contrary to the laws of this state or of the United States, as it may deem necessary and proper for the good of government, order and protection of person and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants, and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this subtitle, or by any law; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hackensack wishes to amend Chapter 170 of the Code of the City of Hackensack, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic,” to add one (1) new handicapped parking spaces to Section 49.2, entitled “Parking for the Handicapped” and,

WHEREAS, the Hackensack Police Department and the City Engineer have investigated the matter and have determined that adding such handicapped parking spaces will not significantly impact on-street parking, nor will it affect traffic flow.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the City’s best interest to take this action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, as follows:

Section 1:
Chapter 170, Section 49.2 of the Code of the City of Hackensack is hereby amended as follows [additions by underline]

§170-49.2. **Parking for the handicapped.**

E. Designation of parking areas. In accordance with this chapter, the following location(s) shall provide parking for the physically handicapped:

Parking Lot or Street	Side	Location/Number of Handicapped Space
<u>192 Washington Ave</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>From a point of 107 feet north of the northeast curbline apex of Washington Ave and Lafayette Street to a point 22 feet north thereof.</u>

Section 2:
All other provisions of Chapter 170, Section 49.2 of the Code of the City of Hackensack shall remain unchanged.

Section 3:
Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only however, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same being conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 4:
Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remain in effect; it being the legislative intent this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 5:
Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the City of Hackensack as though codified and fully set forth therein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The City Clerk and the City Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the City of Hackensack in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

Section 6:
This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage, adoption, and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 433-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the bills in the following accounts be and are hereby ordered paid:

Current Fund	\$	2,427,464.01
Grants		27,473.00
Payroll		1,887,709.37
Public Parking System		36.00
Capital		54,045.21
Escrow		16,190.50
Trust Account		99,565.47
Total Expenditures		<u>4,485,010.56</u>

Interfunds/Transfers

\$ 8,364,879.62

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 434-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS FOR COUNTY AND STATE BOARD JUGEMENTS AND OVERPAYMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the proper officers be and are hereby authorized to make the following refunds for the reasons stated:

AMOUNT	BLOCK	LOT	NAME	YEAR	REASON PROP LOC
\$8,700.21	314	2	Howard Goldberg, Esq. 835 Lamington Rd Bedminster, NJ 07921	2022	State Board Judgment 236-44 State St
\$8,700.21	314	12.01	Howard Goldberg, Esq. 835 Lamington Rd Bedminster, NJ 07921	2022	State Board Judgment 10 Banta Pl
\$1,979.87	423	21.03	Corelogic Refunds Dept For Ezekiel’s LLC 3001 Hackberry Rd Irving, TX 75063	2025	County Board Judgment 376-382 First St
\$28,855.14	300	3.02	RFEH Retail Urban Renewal LLC 570 Commerce Blvd Carlstadt, NJ 07072	2025	Overpayment 80 River St
\$15,284.70	300	3.05	RFEH Retail Urban Renewal LLC 570 Commerce Blvd Carlstadt, NJ 07072	2025	Overpayment 110-120 River St

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 435-25

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED BERGEN
COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, Bergen County Community Development Grants have been proposed by the following organizations located in the municipality of Hackensack, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Inter-local Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the residents of Hackensack; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid Community Development Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hackensack hereby confirms endorsement of the following projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program (Robert G. Esposito – resposito@co.bergen.nj.us) so that implementation of the aforesaid projects may be expedited.

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Act Now Foundation Dementia Resource Center	Dementia Prevention Education Project	\$20,000.00

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 436-25**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 100% VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION FOR 150 POOR STREET

WHEREAS, a property located in the City of Hackensack, known as 150 Poor Street, Hackensack, Block 118, Lot 69, is assessed to Lula Lekay and;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2025, Mrs. Lekay was declared 100% exempt by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, according to the City of Hackensack Ordinance# 50-2023, the effective date of exemption is based on the date of the application of September 23, 2025; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes effective September 23, 2025 and issue a refund in the amount of \$278.85 prorated for 7 days. The refund check will be given to the Tax Collector for mailing. This property is 100% tax exempt for 2025 effective September 23, 2025.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 437-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION FOR MICHAEL SCANGARELLA, POLICE OFFICER

WHEREAS, Michael Scangarella III, Police Officer, has requested an extension of his Leave of Absence without pay for three (3) weeks for personal medical reasons under the Federal Family Leave Act Policy, and

WHEREAS, Michael Scangarella III, Police Officer, has made known his desire to utilize accumulated sick and vacation time in accordance with City policy, and;

WHEREAS, City Manager Thomas J. Freeman has determined that this employee be granted an extension of his Leave of Absence for three (3) weeks, commencing Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and terminating Sunday, October 12, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, that Michael Scangarella III, Police Officer, be granted an extension of his Leave of Absence for three (3) weeks, without pay, as requested.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 438-25

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TETERBORO AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack recognizes the importance of addressing community concerns regarding noise generated by operations at Teterboro Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee (“TANAAC”) serves as a liaison between the airport, local municipalities, and residents to address and mitigate noise issues; and

WHEREAS, TANAAC membership is open to local elected officials representing the interests of the population within the Teterboro Airport traffic area, including the City of Hackensack; and

WHEREAS, under the TANAAC by-laws, each community shall be represented

by the Mayor, or their appointed alternate designee; and

WHEREAS, one of the roles of the Hackensack Environmental Commission is to study and report on noise pollution and air pollution and the City believes it is in the best interest to appoint the Hackensack Environmental Commission as the Mayor’s appointed alternate representative from the City of Hackensack to provide a member of the Commission to attend TANAAC meetings on behalf of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the Environmental Commission, Marlene Sommerville, will be listed as a point of contact for TANAAC to send correspondence to.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, that the Hackensack Environmental Commission is appointed as the Mayor’s alternate designee on TANAAC and the Chairperson shall be the point of contact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 439-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF ESCROW FUNDS – 324-326
WASHINGTON AVE.

WHEREAS, a request has been received for the release of any remaining escrow funds for the project known as **324-326 Washington Ave.**; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the balance of escrow funds remaining for this project is **\$873.59**; and

WHEREAS, the City is in receipt of a certification as to the completeness of the project from the Building / Land Use Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to release the remaining escrow funds in the amount of \$873.59 to Khaled Y. Darwish of 317 Washington Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 440-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RAFFLE LICENSES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the following organization(s) be granted permission to conduct a Raffle in accordance with the application on file in the office of the City Clerk:

RA#2307Hackensack H.S. PTSA

RA#2308300 Club Inc.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 441-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR JAMIER DEFRIETAS, LABORER

WHEREAS, Jamier N. Defrietas, Laborer 1, has requested a Leave of Absence without pay for six (6) weeks for personal medical reasons under the Family and Medical Leave Act Policy, and

WHEREAS, Jamier N. Defrietas, Laborer 1, has made known his desire to utilize accumulated sick and vacation time in accordance with City policy, and;

WHEREAS, City Manager Thomas J. Freeman has determined that this employee be granted a Leave of Absence for six (6) weeks, commencing Wednesday, October 1, 2025 and terminating Saturday, November 15, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, that Jamier N. Defrietas, Laborer 1, be granted a Leave of Absence for six (6) weeks, without pay, as requested.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 442-25

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCUMULATED LEAVE PAY-OUT
TO RETIRED CITY CLERK DEBORAH KARLSSON**

WHEREAS, accumulated absence includes any sick days and vacation days or any other absence time authorized as part of an employer agreement, which is not used by the employee

during the allowed period and which is permitted to accumulate over time to the benefit of the employee; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the funds and authority exist to pay **Deborah Karlsson** for sick days, vacation days and compensatory time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager based on the advice of City Labor Counsel has authorized the payment of **\$27,647.97** to **Deborah Karlsson** for said time; and

WHEREAS, the payment of **\$27,647.97** has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the payment of **\$27,647.97** is made in accordance with and pursuant to City Ordinance - Article III 17-17 A.(2) of the City Code; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack hereby approve payment to **Deborah Karlsson** in the amount of **\$27,647.97** for an accrued time payout in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Local Finance Board for such payments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Chief Financial Officer certifies that there are funds available in the furtherance of this resolution to be in budget account 5-01-30-415-416-119.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey			X				
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 443-25**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCUMULATED LEAVE PAY-OUT TO RETIRED FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY RIEHL

WHEREAS, accumulated absence includes any sick days and vacation days or any other absence time authorized as part of an employer agreement, which is not used by the employee during the allowed period and which is permitted to accumulate over time to the benefit of the employee; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the funds and authority exist to pay **Anthony Riehl** for sick days, vacation days and compensatory time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager based on the advice of City Labor Counsel has authorized the payment of **\$142,574.74** to **Anthony Riehl** for said time; and

WHEREAS, the payment of **\$142,574.74** has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the payment of **\$142,574.74** is made in accordance with and pursuant to Article IX.B of the “Contract of Employment – Fire Chief” agreement between the City of Hackensack and Anthony Riehl; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack hereby approve payment to **Anthony Reihl** in the amount of **\$142,574.74** for an accrued time payout in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Local Finance Board for such payments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Chief Financial Officer certifies that there are funds available in the furtherance of this resolution to be in budget account 5-01-30-415-416-119.

Public Comment

A motion to open the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilwoman Clark Collins.

Marlene Somerville – There was a question proposed to the Council in reference to eminent domain and an ask why we can not evoke eminent domain for redevelopment purposes such as to prevent a builder from building something in. I would like to ask legal counsel to explain what is eminent domain and what is the criteria for the City to evoke it for something. It was tied to a question about open space. The second is on the open space, I did some research on Hackensack for as large as we are and the amount of money and funding that we have for open space, we do not have an open space advisory committee. There are towns like Jersey City and Newark that have this. I think it would benefit the City Council to actually put the committee in place. Their job and responsibility would be to look into anything that's going to come before you guys. They would do the groundwork and said if it has a value added, if it makes sense, it if meets the criteria for the open space funding instead of us consistently coming back as the HEC or Green Team or Shade Tree or any citizen if they think there is a prospective purpose for open space to serve so we keep coming back to give a presentation or at this meeting. The committee would do all the ground work like we do for Zoning or like we do for HEC or Shade Tree. At the end of the day the Council would be where you guys kind of come to say yes, it is feasible or not. Thank you.

Rich Cerbo – Just a couple comments of housecleaning things. Men can also get breast cancer and I never hear that mentioned. Other little things which I like to start with, these parking spots for disabled or handicapped parking, I respect every one of those persons and they need assistance of course but there seems to be too many of those spots, sometimes empty, in front of many buildings, many places, many parking lots. Other things are sanitation, Friday when I come out and get my empty trash can it usually has stuff in it still. I called a few times and I don't want to make a big deal of it but can somebody say to sanitation please empty the blue cans because sometimes I have smaller garbage packs in there and they don't come out. The last few weeks I mentioned a few things I was concerned about and I never got any answers. Maybe I will just repeat it and maybe get an answer this time. The rescinding of deals which I thought was retaliation, I never got a response on that. The next thing I mentioned was the letter in the tax bill, you explaining that here is your taxes they went up a good amount but we aren't responsible for it. I don't think it is necessary for a Mayor and Council to do that. I am just commenting on it and no one answered it, no one said anything to me about it. The last thing is today I noticed on our tax bill, we pay more for schools than municipal government. I noticed that and we have a Mayor that is the head of the teacher's union and I am wondering if there is a conflict there, something going on that's a conflict of interest with other decisions or certain decisions when it comes to taxes.

Doug Garofallo – You recognized Spanish and Latino, Hispanic month but this month of October is Italian Heritage Month. George Bush put that into place in the 1980s. Maybe next year or next meeting, we can make a similar proclamation. I would like to commend our sanitation department because my pail is emptied completely every week. Maybe if the pails are not cleaned by the residents, garbage will stick. So, look before you critique our wonderful sanitation department and the handicapped spaces, having a mother who is handicapped and using those spaces, there are never too many because at any given time there may be two or three people that are handicapped that need those spaces so the more the merrier in my eyes. Thank you.

No one else wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilwoman Clark Collins.

Council Comments

Deputy Mayor Toomey – Thank you to everyone who attended tonight's Council meeting. Your participation and continued support are what keeps our community strong and moving forward. I would like to take a moment to congratulate our newly appointed fire chief, we are proud to welcome him into this leadership role and

confident that his experience and commitment will serve our City well. Congratulations on this well-earned achievement. Over the past week, I have had the pleasure of attending several wonderful events in our City, including Octoberfest, the grand opening of Wonder, and the Hackensack chapter of UNICO's national Columbus Day celebration. It was a special honor to be present as Bergen County Executive James Tedesco was recognized with the Distinguished Community Service Award. Each of these events showcase the vibrant spirit and diversity of our community and I want to thank all the organizers and participants who make them so memorable. I would also like to take a moment to recognize that October is also Italian American Heritage Month, a time to honor the enduring contributions of the Italian Americans to our nation and our local community. For generations, Italian Americans have helped shaped the cultural, economic, and civic life of the United States. From building our infrastructure and enriching our cuisine, to shaping music, art, business, and public service, their legacy is woven into the fabric of our communities. Here in Hackensack and Bergen County, we are proud of the Italian American families who have played vital roles as neighbors, educators, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders. This month we celebrate their heritage and the values of hard work, family, and community that have defined their journey in America. Let us continue to uplift the voices of all cultural communities and reflect on the strength we gain through our diversity. Thank you for coming out. Have a good evening.

Councilwoman Clark-Collins – Good evening. I wanted to mention because it is breast cancer awareness month, that the breast cancer walk is scheduled for Sunday October 26th at 10 AM in Overpeck Park. If you haven't signed up for it, I hope you do so. It is being sponsored by Englewood Hospital. I will be there and hope to see you there. Once again, I would like to congratulate our new fire chief. Thank you for coming out and get home safe.

Councilman Carroll – Two things, the chief left but I want to congratulate him. I did on the side, but publicly, good luck to him and I know he will do a fine job for us. Second, tomorrow is the 200 Club Dinner at The Venetian. It's a good night. We have like 30 police and fire personnel being honored so we should be honored that they are being honored. We will be there tomorrow at 6 PM. That's all I have, thank you.

Councilman Diaz – I just want to take a minute to thank and congratulate everyone who helped make Hispanic heritage month such a great success here in Hackensack from the celebration at Hackensack High School which just happened from 6PM to 8PM today, to Girl Scout event, public library fiesta, and that fun salsa social on Banta Place. It has been quite a month. I think a few of us are still recovering from all the dancing including my Mayor because he was swinging like no one was watching. Each event showed the pride, culture, and art that make our community so special. Thank you for being here tonight and for keeping the Hackensack spirit going strong. Have a good one.

Mayor Gaines – I want to echo everyone in congratulating Fire Chief Rosazza. We are looking forward to working with you. 25 years is an amazing accomplishment. It is just beginning, the next chapter is going to be wonderful for him and the department so thank you. Hackensacktoberfest was fantastic. For those of you that missed it, you missed it but don't miss next year. I want to say a couple of words, our municipal workers are truly fantastic. I just want to stress that because during the City Manager's report the newsletter was mentioned and if you signed up for the newsletter, I am not sure you realize just by way of example, how much work goes into producing a weekly newsletter that not only has forward looking things, but also backward looking things. It's soliciting flyers from a bunch of community organizations. There is so much work that goes into that and Frank works on that closely with Allison. I give things a look over. The Manager gives things a look over. It is one example of what goes into not just the City running and functioning but also an added perk for people to have the City be accessible to them. So, when we show up at these events, I am always struck by how many DPW, Parks, Fire, Police, a lot of people on hand and everyone contributes and these events function because everyone does their role. When you go

and enjoy these events and see one of our workers out there, thank them, congratulate them, because they are an impressive group of folks and I feel compelled to say that. It is great that we happen to be in the overlap of Italian Heritage month and Hispanic Heritage month and when I think about these communities, I think about how Hackensack has always been this great melting pot and receptacle for people all over the world who come to Hackensack to make Hackensack their home. We have our Deputy Mayor being an immigrant from Italy herself and I think it is a wonderful testament to our community the way that these different parts of the world come together to contribute to the fabric of Hackensack and it seems like no better opportunity to mention that in the intersection of those two months in particular. This is going to be the last time that I speak on this but want to make sure Mr. Cerbo is listening, but just a couple things. Number one, mentioned the letter at the last meeting so if you want to go back, we did address the tax letter in the last meeting. You can see the comments there. One thing we are always going to do is communicate and going to communicate honestly. The budget that was approved was a budget that was approved by the previous administration. One thing I mentioned last time was that my own taxes have gone up by \$700. So, I completely commiserate. I understand. We try to communicate whether it's about events or information. We ask people to come to the podium and share resources and we try and do that honestly. The letter was about communicating the reality of we came in inheriting a budget and that tax bill is reflective of a budget that was approved by folks that occupied these seats before we got here. I want to make sure that is crystal clear and I addressed that at the last meeting if you want to go back and listen to that. No retaliation, we love everyone here and all our residents. We are good and I just want to thank everyone for coming out. Thank you to everyone who spoke, it is important that we hear you.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 827 PM.

Approved by Mayor and Council on October 28, 2025

Mayor Caseen Gaines

Deputy Mayor Agatha Toomey

Councilwoman Sonya Clark-Collins

Councilman Phillip Carroll

Councilman Roberto Diaz

Deputy City Clerk Allison Saabye, RMC