MAYOR LICASTRO: I'll call the meeting to order and ask Ms. Cooks to call the roll, please.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Benjamin?

MR. BENJAMIN: Present.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Here.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Here.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Here.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. MCDONALD: Here.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Yonchak?

MR. YONCHAK: Here.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. This is our recess month, which is a misnomer since we never recess in August. Ms. Burke-Jones was kind enough to be flexible as to when to have her meeting, to do it today. Thank you, Ms. Burke-Jones.

I've also asked Ms. Burke-Jones as Chair of Public Improvements to be on the ad hoc committee. I think that's appropriate and even necessary, so thank you for that.

So we are up-to-date on all minutes. You have every minute, minutes from every meeting held prior. So I'm going to ask approval of the prior meeting minutes that have not been approved, yet approved for council.

Is there such a motion to offer, accept as offered?

MR. BENJAMIN: So moved.

MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Discussion? All in favor of the motion?


MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. There's really nothing to talk about with General Assembly. They're in recess until probably after the election, which, of course, is good news. A lot of these issues with Airbnb and other things are still pending. We probably won't have much motion on that until after the election or maybe even 2023.

The same is true with COVID and where you pay taxes and how they're collected. It's pretty much on hold, which, as I mentioned, is a good thing. I don't have a Mayor's court report for this month. I'll have it for next.

Any questions on those items? Mr. Orel.

MR. OREL: Is this the council meeting or the Committee of the Whole?

MAYOR LICASTRO: This is the council meeting. We forewent the Committee of the Whole since we met like 42 times in the last six weeks.

MR. OREL: I just wanted to be clear. I wasn't sure where we were.

MAYOR LICASTRO: The agenda, this is the council meeting. Any comment on agenda items under new business from the public?

There being none, Mr. Benjamin, if you would Ordinance 4154.

MR. BENJAMIN: Ordinance 4154, that the following claims against the Village of Bratenahl are hereby directed from the funds and the fiscal officer is hereby authorized and directed to draw her warrant for payment to wit, for August 2022. The total pay claims amount is $120,914.11 and I move suspension of Ordinance 4154.

MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on
suspension, please.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. Benjamin?

Mr. Benjamin: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Burke-Jones?

Ms. Burke-Jones: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Hoefling?

Ms. Hoefling: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Huffman?

Ms. Huffman: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. McDonald?

Mr. McDonald: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. Yonchak?

Mr. Yonchak: Aye.

Mr. Benjamin: We discussed this ordinance earlier during the Finance Committee meeting. And with that I move passage.

Ms. Burke-Jones: Second.

Mayor Licastro: Any further questions or discussion? There being none, roll call on passage, please.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. Benjamin?

Mr. Benjamin: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Burke-Jones?

Ms. Burke-Jones: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Hoefling?

Ms. Hoefling: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Ms. Huffman?

Ms. Huffman: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. McDonald?

Mr. McDonald: Aye.

Ms. Cooks: Mr. Yonchak?

Mr. Yonchak: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It was closed for one day only. Those holidays are paid holidays.

Ms. Cooks: What two days are you referring to, Ms. Meade?

Ms. MEADE: I'll look up the other day for Juneteenth. And July 4th was like the 1st and there was another day. It was posted on the website that said they were closed.

Ms. Cooks: That's not true, Ms. Meade.

Ms. MEADE: It is true. I have the screen capture.

Ms. Cooks: The reason I'm sure that the office was not closed is I worked on the 1st, so it was not closed.

Ms. MEADE: Well, there was a message on the website saying the offices were closed on those days due to the holidays.

Ms. Cooks: The 4th, yes, but not the 1st.

Ms. MEADE: I'll send you the screen capture. So my question is since they were closed and they're paid holidays, my question is did the Mayor have the legal authority to do that?

MAYOR LICASTRO: Absolutely.

Ms. MEADE: Juneteenth is not, according to the ordinance, in what council has approved a paid holiday.

MAYOR LICASTRO: That's correct.

Ms. MEADE: And it has not been approved by Council.

MAYOR LICASTRO: May I? But it is a federally recognized holiday. I would ask that be added next year. It's a very significant date for our country and giving employees that day off is an appropriate thing to do.

Ms. MEADE: But you did not have legal
authority at that time to do it.

MAYOR LICASTRO: As administrator, I can close Village Hall on charter employees any time I want to.

MS. MEADE: Okay. Residents would like to know that.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Not that I would, but for something like Juneteenth and the significance it has, especially for minorities in this country, it was the appropriate thing to do.

MS. MEADE: I'm not challenging that.

What I'm challenging is the law, council's authority and the Mayor's authority.

My next question is could you explain why Chief LoBello did not adhere to a one-year probationary period and all other employees have to?

MAYOR LICASTRO: He's on a probationary period.

MS. MEADE: He was on for six months and then it got waived instead of one year. So can you explain why he didn't have to follow the same rules?

MAYOR LICASTRO: I have to see the ordinance. I thought the ordinance was for a six-month period.

MS. MEADE: It's for one year. So again, you usurped -- you didn't follow the law.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Again, that's your opinion.

MS. MEADE: The law is the law.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Council could have decided to not approve his hire. They approved his hire and he's now a regular full-time employee.

MS. MEADE: You recommended council to approve him going off probation after six months. It's on the record. You have to follow the law.

MAYOR LICASTRO: That's right, I do. So do you. 30 seconds.

MS. MEADE: According to -- we heard that Mr. Yonchak was put on Public Improvements to replace Rod. Is he also being named a safety chair as Rod was and is he the new rec liaison or have you made other appointments.

MAYOR LICASTRO: I haven't fulfilled that position. I intend to do so in short order.

MS. MEADE: There are two positions that I think that are open and they've been open for four months, so what's the problem?

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Meade.

MS. MEADE: How come Public Improvements got filled and these two remain open?

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Meade. Anyone else?

MS. GOYANES: Answer the question.

MAYOR LICASTRO: I'm not going to answer the question. She's got three minutes.

MS. GOYANES: Then I'm going to ask it.

What's the problem?

MAYOR LICASTRO: There's no problem.

MS. GOYANES: No problem.

MS. MEADE: You just don't want to do it.

MS. GOYANES: What's the delay?

MAYOR LICASTRO: We've been prioritizing other things I think are more pressing. I intend to address it in short order.

MS. MEADE: Thank you.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Anyone else? Ms. Huffman. So when I ask for comments from council, that's the time.

MS. HUFFMAN: I know. Well, this in response to the discussion about Juneteenth, so if I may make a comment. If I'm not mistaken, the ruling on that came out as late notice.

MS. MEADE: That was last year.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Came out what?

MS. HUFFMAN: There was late notice about Juneteenth.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It was.

MS. HUFFMAN: Okay. And so employers had to figure out what day they would choose in order to honor it, correct?

MAYOR LICASTRO: Yes.

MS. HUFFMAN: So I'm just trying to figure out --

MS. MEADE: It started last year when it was first created.

MS. HUFFMAN: I understand.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It's a new Federal holiday.

MS. HUFFMAN: I get it. I'm just trying to fill a gap here to figure out if the administration had made a decision to make it on a Monday or a Friday or if there was just a miscommunication is all I'm asking.

MAYOR LICASTRO: We made it on Juneteenth, the actual day.

MS. HUFFMAN: On the Monday.
MAYOR LICASTRO: Yes, whatever that day was.

MS. HUFFMAN: So it was on a Monday.

MAYOR LICASTRO: If that was the date it was, yes.

MS. HUFFMAN: That's all I wanted to know.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Anything else? Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. McDONALD: So move.

MR. YONCHAK: Second.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on adjournment.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Benjamin?

MR. BENJAMIN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Burke-Jones?

MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Hoefling?

MS. HOEFLING: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Ms. Huffman?

MS. HUFFMAN: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. McDonald?

MR. McDONALD: Aye.

MS. COOKS: Mr. Yonchak?

MR. YONCHAK: Aye.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. Hopefully next month will be here without masks. Everyone have a good evening.

(Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.)

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