

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 27, 2022**

Township of East Brunswick  
1 Jean Walling Civic Center Dr.  
East Brunswick, New Jersey



**Regular Meeting: X**  
Special Meeting: N/A  
Meeting Time: 7:30 P.M.

Council President Wendell called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Governing Body and its audience proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence.

The Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, called the roll:

Present: Councilman Behal  
Councilman McEvoy  
Councilwoman Sullivan  
Councilwoman Zimbicki  
Council President Wendell

Also Present: Mayor Brad Cohen  
Michael Baker, Township Attorney  
Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator  
Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk

The Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the Statement of Adequate Notice:

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by specifying time, date, location, and to the extent known, the agenda, by posting a copy on the Bulletin Board located in the main lobby of the East Brunswick Municipal Building, providing a copy to the Home News Tribune and Sentinel newspapers, posting a copy on the Township's website and by a filing a copy in the office of the Township Clerk which will be entered in the minutes.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # 17435 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2022

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of Resolution #17435, seconded by Councilman Behal. With no recommended changes to the meeting Minutes, Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote:

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:						
Council Members	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal		X	X			
McEvoy	X		X			
Sullivan			X			
Zimbicki			X			
Wendell			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the resolution adopting the meeting Minutes was approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

**PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH ON JULY 1, 2022**

Councilwoman Zimbicki read the Proclamation Acknowledging National Parks and Recreation Month in July.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING AND
\*\*\* PUBLIC HEARING \*\*\*

Council President Wendell read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE 22-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION/ ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, SECTION 38, ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ACT AS THE ISSUING AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE GRANTING OF RAFFLE AND BINGO LICENSES

Council President Wendell explained the purpose of the Ordinance.

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved that the ordinance be adopted on second and final reading, and that the ordinance be submitted to the Mayor for approval, and thereafter published according to law. Councilwoman Sullivan seconded the motion.

Council President Wendell opened the meeting to the public for discussion.

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Wendell closed the public hearing.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the second reading of Ordinance # 22-15:

Table with 7 columns: Council Members, Motion, Second, Yes, No, Abstain, Absent. Rows include Behal, McEvoy, Sullivan, Zimbicki, and Wendell.

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 22-15 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen congratulated all the 2022 graduates on their milestone accomplishments.

The State of New Jersey will be repaving Route 18 in the near future. On tonight's agenda is a Bond Ordinance to ascertain the resources to facilitate the financial process. The Township is responsible for 50% of the construction costs of improving the water main lines along Route 18.

As the celebration of Independence Day approaches, he reminded the public of the festivities to be held at the Community Arts Center, including fireworks to begin on July 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

The unveiling of the art sculpture, “6 feet apart,” is a dedication to those who were instrumental in helping the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged the public to view the mosaic artwork at the Community Arts Center.

**Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator:** Mr. Criscuolo reminded the public to adhere to the traffic directions when leaving the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebratory event. He explained the routes vehicles should take when departing.

Mr. Criscuolo proceeded to explain the purpose of the following resolutions:

Resolution # 17436 – There was a water main break on Route 18. As a result, an emergency was declared as per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 to replace the water main break.

Resolution # 17437-17438 - As per N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 (a) et seq., war veterans who are 100% disabled are granted full property tax exemption on their dwelling house and the lot on which it is located.

Resolution # 17441 – This resolution is necessary when the Township awards contracts for road improvement projects and other construction services involving asphalt and concrete. This resolution is to hire an expert to take asphalt/concrete samples provided by a contractor for a construction project within the township and to test such samples and verify their legitimate source prior to its use.

Resolution # 17445 – During frigid temperatures, there was a water main break at a certain property which the Township’s Road Department repaired. This resolution would add the service fees to the property owner’s utility account as an additional fee for the services rendered to repair the water main break. The property owner has informed us that he has submitted the claim to his insurance company and is now awaiting a response.

**Michael Baker, Township Attorney:** Mr. Baker reported that he has maintained communication with StarFire Corp. The vendor will provide a demonstration of its new firework devices after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

**Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk:** Ms. Lawful had nothing new to report.

**James Wendell, Council President:** Council President Wendell, also Chair of the Redevelopment Agency, reported on the redevelopment progress of the mini-mall that once housed the Gap, the Wiz, Babies R-Us, and Weight Watchers on Route 18. The redeveloper closed on the property on Friday, June 24, 2022, and demolition is expected to begin in the near future. This redevelopment project will help to enhance the Township and its tax rateables.

Council President Wendell further informed the public of a small fireworks display in July, as mentioned by Mr. Baker. The purpose of the event is to allow the public and the Governing Body to assess the noise level of the newly acquired fireworks to ensure compliance with the Township code.

**Dinesh Behal, Councilman:** Councilman Behal had nothing new to report.

**Kevin McEvoy, Councilman:** Councilman McEvoy had nothing new to report.

**Sharon Sullivan, Councilwoman:** Councilwoman Sullivan requested Mr. Criscuolo to explain the garbage collection issues in the Township.

Mr. Criscuolo and Mayor Cohen explained that the Township contracts with Solterras for its garbage collection. The company faces several challenges: a shortage of staff, difficulties obtaining vehicle parts, and having to spend extra time collecting garbage over the weekend. The garbage collected on the weekend is not emptied until the landfill reopens on Monday. As a result, this causes a delay for garbage collection on Monday morning.

**Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman:** Councilwoman Zimbicki reported on the successful opening of Crystal Springs. She encouraged residents to visit.

Councilwoman Zimbicki thanked Mr. Criscuolo for addressing the signage issue on Route 18 concerning fireworks.

The Township Clerk read the following:

**PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT AND TIME LIMIT**

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Council's attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the East Brunswick Rules of Council, the Council asks the public to limit their comments to **five (5) minutes or less**. The public may use this opportunity to question any item listed on the Consent Agenda, and request that such item be removed from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and voted on separately. Only one member of the public should approach to speak to council at a time. The Council will respect the public's time by refraining from any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. At the conclusion of the statements or questions from a member of the public, the Council President, at his or her discretion, may choose to respond, or not respond, or to ask the Administration to respond.

If the questions require more detailed responses, the Council President or Administration may ask the member of the public to make an appointment with the appropriate township official during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting.

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Council President Wendell opened the meeting to the public.

**Marina Adam – 17 Candle Lane**

Ms. Adam came forward to voice her concerns about 23 Quaker Drive and 19 Candle Lane, both of which are adjacent to her home. Images were provided. 23 Quaker Drive has been abandoned for 37 years, and 19 Candle Lane has been vacant for 18 years. However, the property owners' claim to reside at the properties. The properties have multiple code violations due to a lack of maintenance, including downed branches, overgrown grass, broken fences, poison ivy growth, cats, snakes, and they attract trespassing teenagers [specifically at 19 Candle Lane]. The court has issued a summons with a tentative court date of August 9, 2022, for both properties. The abandoned properties pose safety risks and are an economic consequence of the real estate value in the area. Complaints were also made concerning 6 Lantern Lane.

Ms. Adams requested the township to condemn the properties.

Mr. Criscuolo gave a review of the code violations at 19 Candle Lane, 23, Quaker Drive, and 6 Candle Lane.

**Richard Rollman – 16 Candle Lane**

Mr. Rollman stated that upon reviewing the water bills for 23 Quaker Drive, he noticed 10,000 gallons of water had been used, which is indicative of a potential leak on the property.

**Holly Beckman – 22 Candle Lane**

Ms. Beckman stated that her neighboring vacant property is dangerous. She was struck by a tree limb and also got poison ivy from the property. The leaves on the property are never cleaned.

**Cindy Schneider - 18 Candle Lane**

Ms. Schneider stated that her late husband maintained the property. The property is a fire hazard. Paper bags filled with leaves have been on the property for years.

**David Herrera – 32 Cosgrove Court**

Mr. Herrera thanked Mr. Criscuolo for installing the speed monitor on Cranbury Road.

He inquired whether there was a PILOT program for the redevelopment project on Route 18. Mr. Criscuolo stated that a PILOT program currently does not exist and that regular taxes are being paid on the property.

Mr. Herrera encouraged residents to attend Township Council meetings and to voice their concerns.

**Laura Faria – 21 Quaker Drive**

Mrs. Faria voiced her concerns about snakes and poison ivy on the neighboring vacant property.

**Alex Spielman – 6 Douglas Road**

Mr. Spielman informed everyone that today, June 27, 2022, is National PTSD Day, and June is National PTSD Awareness Month. There is a rise in mental health and PTSD issues, which should never be overlooked. Due to the stigma associated with mental health, those who suffer from mental health are afraid of being judged or looked upon as weak. However, mental health is a silent killer. In his words, for anyone suffering with mental health issues, “we care about you and want the best for you.”

**Antoinette Evola – 45 Merrill Avenue**

Ms. Evola stated that she lives on Merrill Avenue, a one-way street, where children play and ride their bikes. Cars frequently drive in the opposite direction and speed which is concerning, especially for the elderly.

**Dana Winston – 44 Fresh Ponds Road**

Ms. Winston stated that she has spent a lot of time at the Senior Center, which is thriving. Seniors are very active and socially connected. She encouraged senior residents to participate.

**Cynthia Rollman – 16 Candle Lane**

Ms. Walling inquired about the next steps concerning the alleged vacant properties. She was informed by Mr. Criscuolo that the matter would proceed through the judicial process, on August 9, 2022.

**Nick DeMauro – 5 South Main Street, Allentown**

Mr. DeMauro, Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.), appeared in support of Resolution # 17443, and to answer any questions presented by the Governing Body concerning the Carnival at the Brunswick Square Mall from July 17, 2022, through August 2, 2022. He informed the Township Council that the community and local chapter would benefit from the event.

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There being no further members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Wendell closed the public portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION(S) [Requiring a separate vote]

There are none.

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**\*\*\*CONSENT AGENDA\*\*\***

Resolution # 17436 through Resolution # 17448

The following items are considered to be routine and non-controversial items by the Township Council and will be enacted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so request, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda to be discussed, and voted on, following the approval of the remaining items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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Resolution # 17436	Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract with Lucas Brothers, Inc. and Signs & Safety Devices, LLC as per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 to Replace a Water Main Break on Route 18 North in the Amount not to Exceed \$ 15,572.56
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Resolution # 17437	Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Preliminary, Estimated, and Final 2022 Billing on Block 322.10, Lot 5, for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
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- Resolution # 17438 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Preliminary, Estimated, and Final 2022 Billing on Block 88.43 Lot 1 C0060 and Block 88.43, Lot 1 P0500, for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Resolution # 17439 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 17440 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution # 17441 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract with Key Tech Laboratories to Perform Concrete and Asphalt Testing Services from June 2022 through June 2024
- Resolution #17442 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in the Township of East Brunswick for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
- Resolution # 17443 Resolution Authorizing the Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D) to Hold a Carnival at the Brunswick Square Mall from July 17, 2022, through August 2, 2022
- Resolution # 17444 Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Amusement Game Licenses for the Middlesex County Fair to be held from August 1, 2022, through August 7, 2022
- Resolution # 17445 Resolution Authorizing Special Charges on Water and Sewer Account of 710 Old Bridge Turnpike (Block 831.01, Lot 39.01)
- Resolution # 17446 Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of Shared Services Agreement for Summer Program Transportation with the East Brunswick Board of Education
- Resolution # 17447 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Ch. 159, P.L. 148) – Public and Private Revenues Offset by Appropriations for a Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Municipal Recycling Enhancement Grant for Recycling Projects in the Amount of \$7,500.00
- Resolution # 17448 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

# # #

**CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 17436 through Resolution # 17448. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the Consent Agenda:

<b>RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:</b>						
Council Members	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal		X	X			
McEvoy			X			
Sullivan	X		X			
Zimbicki			X			
Wendell			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda were approved.

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**RESOLUTION[S] REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

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There were none.

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**\*\*\*ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION\*\*\*  
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING DATE: JULY 11, 2022**

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Council President Wendell read the following ordinance by title:

**ORDINANCE 22-16**            BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$3,300,000.00 FOR VARIOUS WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,300,000.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Council President Wendell explained the purpose of the ordinance.

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of the ordinance on first reading, and that it be published according to the law, and a public hearing on the ordinance be held on July 11, 2022, at the Municipal Building/Court Room, located at 1 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive, in the Township of East Brunswick. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the introduction of the ordinance:

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:						
Council Members	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal		X	X			
McEvoy	X		X			
Sullivan			X			
Zimbicki			X			
Wendell			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 22-16 was approved on first reading.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

**James Wendell, Council President** – Council President Wendell reported that the July 25, 2022, Township Council meeting has been canceled due to a lack of quorum.

**Sharon Sullivan, Councilwoman** – Councilwoman Sullivan reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event to be held at the Community Arts Center at 6:30 p.m.

The VFW will host a 5K walk/run on July 24, 2022. There will also be a charity food walk on July 18, 2022. The registration for the charity food walk is \$10 and includes a t-shirt. She encouraged the residents to support both events.

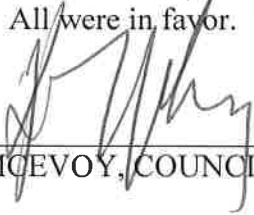
**Dana Zimbicik, Councilwoman** – Councilwoman Zimbicki spoke about Resolution # 17446, a two-year shared services agreement with the Board of Education for transportation services for the Township’s summer camps. This shared services agreement is a great opportunity for the Township. Although the buses are limited within the Township, the Township secured a vendor to transport children on field trips that are outside the jurisdiction of East Brunswick.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilman McEvoy moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Zimbicki seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

  
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KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:  
  
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TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK