

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2023**

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 McEvoy 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 Wendell
Councilwoman Winston
Councilwoman Zimbicki
Council President McEvoy

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 as required under Chapter 231, P. L. 1975, by specifying the 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 filing a copy in the office of the Township Clerk which will be entered into the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # 23-94 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2023

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of Resolution #23-94 seconded by Councilman Behal. With no recommended changes to the Minutes, Council President McEvoy requested a roll call vote:

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal			X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

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

PROCLAMATIONS

- **Proclamation acknowledging Ken Freedman for his services to the Township.**

Dr. Ken Freedman came forward to accept a commemorative proclamation for his years of service to the Township of East Brunswick. Mayor Brad Cohen spoke of his contribution to the community, both professionally and as a volunteer citizen. He was commended for his years of dedication to the township.

Council President McEvoy proceeded to read a proclamation acknowledging Ken Freedman for his outstanding service and dedication to the Township of East Brunswick.

Mr. Freeman gave a brief speech, acknowledging the Governing Body, the Advisory Health Council, to which he served, and his family for their continuous support as he passionately supported the community of East Brunswick for many years. He also acknowledged the newly appointed Advisory Health Council president. It is an honor to serve this community, stated Mr. Freedman!

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

Presentation:

2023 Community Development Block Grant

Presented by: Susan Fein

Susan Fein, Housing Specialist for the Township of East Brunswick, gave a brief presentation explaining the purpose and benefits of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The purpose of the presentation is to provide information to the public, answer questions, and solicit suggestions. CDBG is a federally funded program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The benefit of the program is to provide communities with resources to address a wide range of community development needs, specifically in low-to-moderate income communities, to assist families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Funding can be used to facilitate a wide range of activities, such as housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, the acquisition of real property, the preservation of historical sites, the elimination of slums and blighted areas, the expansion of housing opportunities, demolition, infrastructure, public facilities, economic development, social services, and more.

Ms. Fein will apply for the Community Development Block Grant with Middlesex County and encouraged the public to come forth and provide recommendations on how best to use the resources. The application submission deadline is March 6, 2023. Ms. Fein provided her contact information so the public could reach out prior to the submission deadline.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President McEvoy opened the floor to the public to comment or recommend possible projects to consider.

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

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE # 23-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK AMENDING CHAPTER 43, ALARM SYSTEMS, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

Councilman Wendell 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 Winston seconded the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal			X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 23-07 was adopted on second reading.

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE # 23-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 209 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" TO ESTABLISH A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHURCH LANE AND FRESH PONDS ROAD

Councilman Wendell 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 Winston seconded the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal			X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 23-08 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on a number of emails and complaints concerning noise and speeding vehicles on Sunburst Drive. The Police Department has monitored Sunburst Drive, and to date, they have only found one truck and stopped a few cars for speeding. The

concerns about noise disturbance remain unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, the Police Department cannot be omnipresent throughout this vast community. The Township Police Department will continue to enforce traffic laws, as public safety is taken seriously. However, the township can no longer deploy resources and manpower to address unsubstantiated complaints. Thus far, the barrage of complaints is coming from an unidentified source. Mayor Cohen requested that the individual cease this unacceptable behavior, as making false allegations or claims can be dangerous to public safety. Mayor Cohen also mentioned remediating the issue by either ignoring future complaints or by closing off the intersection from River Road through Sunburst Drive.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo had nothing new to report.

Michael Baker, Township Attorney: Mr. Baker had nothing new to report.

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

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

James Wendell, Councilman: Councilman Wendell had nothing new to report.

Dana Winston, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Winston had nothing new to report.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki had nothing new to report.

Kevin McEvoy, Council President: Council President McEvoy had nothing new to report.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Township Clerk read the following statement:

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT

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**. 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.

Council President McEvoy opened the meeting to the public.

Wilbur Pan – 223 Milltown Road

Mr. Pan inquired on the reasoning for the temporary closure of the library and its current status. Mayor Cohen explained the library is temporarily closed to test a specific area for asbestos. Several tests have been made, all of which came back negative. The vinyl floor tiles were removed and out of caution, they were tested.

Thomas Ingrisani – 58 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Ingrisani commented on the potential tax impact to build a new High School. He recommended installing a traffic camera on Sunburst Drive to remediate the complaints about speeding trucks. He further recommended that a sign be installed at the entrance and exit of the school's parking lot to prohibit anyone from making U-turns.

There being no further members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the Public Session of the meeting.

RESOLUTION(S) [Requiring a separate vote]

Resolution # 23-95 Resolution Requesting Approval for Authorizing an Emergency Temporary Appropriations in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20
[No less than 2/3 vote of full membership required]

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-95, seconded by Councilman Behal.

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal		X	X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston			X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Resolution # 23-95 was approved.

*****CONSENT AGENDA*****

Resolution # 23-96 through Resolution # 23-102

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.

- Resolution # 23-96 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for the Furnishing and Delivery of Apparel for the Department of Recreation and Parks to Dot Designing, LLC in the Amount Not to Exceed \$37,162.62
- Resolution # 23-97 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 23-98 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution # 23-99 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1
- Resolution # 23-100 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration Fee [Block 828 Lot 16]
- Resolution # 23-101 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration Fee [Block 320.16 Lot 16]
- Resolution # 23-102 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-96 through Resolution # 23-102. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL						
Council Member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Behal		X	X			
Wendell			X			
Winston			X			
Zimbicki	X		X			
McEvoy			X			

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

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

There were none.

**ORDINANCE(S)
FOR INTRODUCTION**
Scheduled Public Hearing Date: N/A

There were none.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

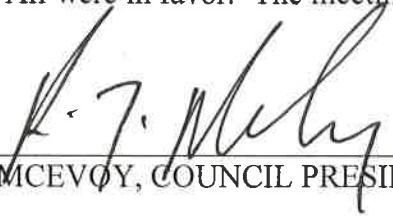
Kevin McEvoy, Council President: Council President McEvoy informed the public that the East Brunswick Arts Commission will host a photography project, themed “Ordinary to Extraordinary.” The public may submit their photos at arts@eastbrunswick.org by March 20th. The Youth Council will be hosting a fundraising event for Earth Day on April 22, 2023, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Community Park, Pickleball Court. He encouraged the public to support the event and enjoy a pickleball tournament.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilman Wendell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Winston seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST: 

TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK