

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 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 # 23-148 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2023

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-148, 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	X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston			X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation Declaring the Month of May as National Water Safety Month

Council Vice President Zimbicki introduced the proclamation, promoting water safety at home and in public spaces, such as pools, beaches, rivers, and lakes. She proceeded to read the proclamation declaring the month of May as National Water Safety Month.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

The Unveiling of the “Mayoral Wall”

Mayor Cohen introduced the unveiling of the “Mayoral Wall.” He gave recognition to past elected mayors and mentioned their significance. He explained that the “Mayoral Wall” is designated for all elected mayors of the past and the future. However, the current mayor’s portrait, which currently features Mayor Brad Cohen, is displayed in the main lobby of the Municipal Building and will be the designated location for future mayors to come.

Mayor Cohen and former mayors Ira Oskowsky, William P. Neary, and Kevin McEvoy unveiled the new “Mayoral Wall”. The wall featured a collection of portraits of past mayors who served the township. Mayor Aleck Borman was the first elected Mayor of the Township of East Brunswick under the current Faulkner Form of Government in 1965. His portrait was the first in the collection, followed by the remainder of the elected mayors that preceded him. Prior to the township’s current Faulkner Form of Government, the township had a Committee Form of Government in which the mayor was appointed for a one-year term by its Committee Members.

Former Mayor Ira Oskowsky (1991-1996) gave a brief speech, conveying his sentiment to see the contributions made by all mayors, including himself. He expressed how proud he is to have served the Township of East Brunswick and thanked Mayor Cohen for keeping everyone involved.

Former Mayor William P. Neary (1997-2008) gave a brief speech, expressing his honor to be present tonight. Serving as mayor was rewarding, and the foundation established through hard work and efforts by each mayor makes the township the wonderful community it is today.

Former Mayor McEvoy (2016) gave a brief speech and stated that everything he taught in the classroom has come to fruition. During his tenure as Mayor, the experience was memorable and something he will honor forever.

Mayor Cohen concluded by thanking the former mayors for their attendance, and he recognized the current township council for their dedication and teamwork.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

ORDINANCE # 23-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 209 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,” ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 49, SCHEDULE X, “TRUCKS REGISTERED FOUR (4) TONS GROSS WEIGHT OR OVER,” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the ordinance by title.

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 # 23-11 was adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 83, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "DOGS AND CATS," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the ordinance by title.

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. Councilman Behal 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	X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston			X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 23-12 was adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 109, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "FOOD HANDLING ESTABLISHMENTS," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the ordinance by title.

Councilman Behal 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		X			
Wendell			X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 23-13 was adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-14

A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST BRUNSWICK BOARD OF EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING \$6,100,000.00 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,795,000.00 IN BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Township Clerk, Tamar Lawful, read the ordinance by title.

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. Councilman Behal 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	X			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston			X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 23-14 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on the various road improvement projects throughout the Township. The state is working on a multi-year road improvement project on Route 18, which includes water repairs. The county is working on a number of road improvement projects on county roads, such as Ryders Lane, Main Street, and Cranbury Road. PSE&G is repairing lines throughout the township, which will result in road repairs. Additionally, aside from the state, the county, and PSE&G, there are several local road improvement projects being done to repair local roads. The public was asked to be patient during the construction period, as the results of this temporary inconvenience would be for the betterment of the community.

On May 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Town Hall meeting at the library to discuss phase II of the Township’s redevelopment projects, “Redevelopment 2.0,” and where and how redevelopment projects will benefit the community and be sustained for the benefit of future generations.

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, there will be a Masquerade Ball held at the Community Arts Center. The ball will include a plethora of artwork for the public to enjoy.

The Township was awarded \$1,000,000 to expand the Community Arts Center. In the future, the goal is to build an outdoor performance stage with proper sound systems, lighting, and sheltering to protect against the outdoor elements. There will also be areas for the public to utilize to create different forms of art. It will be a project to make East Brunswick a center for the arts. Fundraising for this project is the best route to ensure it is self-funded without being a financial burden on taxpayers.

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

Michael Baker, Township Attorney: Mr. Baker reported on a truck in attendance at the empanada event held at the Brunswick Square Mall on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The vendor attempted to issue free cannabis in exchange for the purchase of other items. The township was not aware of the vendor beforehand and will implement procedures to ensure it does not happen again in the future. The Attorney General's Office has taken the position that cannabis mobile trucks are not a loophole, and the office may have issued cease-and-desist orders for these types of operators in the past. The Police Chief will liaise with the prosecutor's office concerning what transpired at the May 6th event.

Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk: Ms. Lawful reported that the last day to register to vote will be Tuesday, May 16th. The Middlesex County Board of Elections will be open on May 16th until 9:00 p.m. to permit residents to register to vote or to amend their voter registration with respect to their place of residence.

For those who have received their mail-in ballots, there are three ways to return the ballots:

- By using the U.S. Postal Service;
- By dropping the ballots off at the Board of Elections located at 11 Kennedy Boulevard;
- By using the ballot drop box located within the municipal complex by the Municipal Court and Police Station parking lot.

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 reported on the renovation progress at Bicentennial Park. The renovations are expected to be completed soon. There will be a "Meet the Recreation Staff" event at Bicentennial Park on May 10th to allow residents to ask questions, inquire about job opportunities, and provide suggestions. The public will have the opportunity to enjoy ice cream and fun activities at the event. Parks and Recreation received a \$66,000 grant to upgrade the playground at Washington Heights Park. Previously, the department received a grant to upgrade the playground at Sadowski Park, which will be completed in late spring or early summer of this year. In addition to the park improvements, the score boards at Heavenly Farms – Field B, arrived and will be installed very soon.

Harbor Day, hosted by Parks and Recreation on April 28th at Central School, was a success. She acknowledged the school principal and the women's club for sponsoring and supporting the event.

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.

Thomas Ingrisani – 58 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Ingrisani commented on a police chase that occurred on his block on Deerfield Drive. Due to the event, he inquired whether a speed bump would be considered to deter speeding vehicles. He further inquired whether a “left turn” signal can be installed on Route 18 to permit vehicles to turn left onto Tices Lane from Route 18.

In response to Mr. Ingrisani’s questions, Mr. Baker explained that speed bumps are not preferred and are considered a hazard and a challenge for snowplows, among other things. However, the Council may ask the Police Department to review the area and determine whether other mechanisms, such as stripping or signage, should be installed. In terms of making a left turn onto Tices Lane from Route 18, this request will not be approved by the state.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

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]

There were none.

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

Resolution # 23-149 through Resolution # 23-157

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 # 23-149 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to Longo Electrical-Mechanical, Inc. to Supply and Install an Automatic Transfer Switch at the Tices Lane Pump Station in the Amount Not to Exceed \$34,300.00
 - Resolution # 23-150 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
 - Resolution # 23-151 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
 - Resolution # 23-152 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Hydrant Usage Permits
 - Resolution # 23-153 Resolution Providing for the Cancellation of Certain Charges Which the Collector of Revenue Deems Uncollectible
 - Resolution # 23-154 Resolution Authorizing St. Mary and St. Stephen Coptic Orthodox Church to Hold a Carnival on June 3, 2023, through June 4, 2023
 - Resolution # 23-155 Resolution Appointing Marion Van Derveer to the Commission on Aging
 - Resolution # 23-156 Resolution Authorizing an Upgrade of the Public Safety Radio System Hardware and Software Under the New Jersey State Contract # 83909 in the Amount Not to Exceed \$1,413,000.00
 - Resolution # 23-157 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-149 through Resolution # 23-157. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

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 resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda were approved.

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

There were none.

<p>ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Scheduled Public Hearing Date: May 22, 2023</p>

ORDINANCE # 23-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 53, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "BARBERSHOPS," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

The Township Clerk, Ms. Lawful, read the ordinance by title.

Mr. Criscuolo explained the purpose of the ordinance.

Councilman Wendell 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 May 22, 2023, at the Municipal Building/Court Room, located at 1 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive, in the Township of East Brunswick. Councilwoman Winston seconded the motion.

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 # 23-15 passed on first reading.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Dinesh Behal, Councilman: Mr. Behal acknowledged East Brunswick Police Officer Joseph Bauer for his heroism a few weeks ago. Mr. Bauer saved someone's life. Officer Bauer's action is a reminder that our first responders are never off duty. He further acknowledged and thanked nurse Melissa Lazark for facilitating Officer Bauer's resuscitation of the person's life.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.


ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Council Wendell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Behal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK