

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 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 Alliance, 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
Rajvir Goomer, 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # 17403 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2022

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of Resolution #17403, seconded by Councilman Behal. With no recommended changes to the 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 was approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Cub Scouts Achievement of the Arrow of Light Award:

The cub scouts were requested to stand in front of the dais as Councilman McEvoy read a proclamation Recognizing their Achievement of the Arrow of Light Award. A proclamation from the State of New Jersey was also presented to the leader, who gave a brief speech thanking the Governing Body for the acknowledgment. He left the message that scouting contributes a little to

the betterment of the Township. Mayor Cohen acknowledged the cub scouts for their great achievement.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY – NO VOTES)

There were none.

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

Council President Wendell read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE 22-13

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST BRUNSWICK BOARD OF EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING \$18,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$17,100,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Mr. Criscuolo explained the purpose of the Ordinance.

Councilwoman Sullivan moved that the ordinance be adopted on second and final reading, that it be submitted to the Mayor for his approval, and thereafter published according to law. Councilman Behal 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 introduction of the ordinance:

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:						
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, Ordinance # 22-13 was adopted on second reading.

Council President Wendell read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE 22-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, SECTION 117, SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR POLICE SERVICES, CHAPTER 209, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, SECTION 78, TRAFFIC DIRECTORS AND ADDING CHAPTER 209, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, SECTION 80, AUTHORIZATION TO EMPLOY OFF-DUTY OFFICERS AND SECTION 81, VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

Mr. Criscuolo explained the purpose of the Ordinance.

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved that the ordinance be adopted on second and final reading, that it be submitted to the Mayor for his 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 introduction of the ordinance:

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

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 22-14 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on the various road improvement projects throughout the Township and asked residents to be patient during traffic disruptions. He further informed the public of the Fern Road Improvement Project, which will begin after schools break for the summer.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo reported on garage collection, which will be collected twice per week. Residents were further informed of the number to call to schedule solid waste pick-ups.

The public were reminded of the ceremony to be held this Sunday, May 29, 2022, at the Memorial Site to honor our veterans who died while serving our country.

Mr. Criscuolo acknowledged the retiring Revenue Collector, Michelle O'Hara, and spoke highly of her institutional knowledge and work ethics. Michelle O'Hara will be missed.

Rajver Goomer, Township Attorney: Mr. Goomer had nothing new to report.

Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk: Ms. Lawful reported on the 2022 Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Early voting will be held at the Community Arts Center on Friday, June 3, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Council President Wendell: Council President Wendell, also chair of the Redevelopment Agency, reported on the redevelopment progress of the mini-mall that once held the Gap, the Wiz, Babies-R-Us, and Weight Watchers on Route 18. The redeveloper will be closing on the property by mid-June, and demolition is expected to follow shortly after.

Council President Wendell referenced Resolution # 17404, acknowledging the retirement of Revenue Collector, Michelle O'Hara, for her 25 years of service and dedication to the Township. He spoke of his appreciation for her advice and her wealth of knowledge provided throughout the years.

Council President Wendell congratulated the Rutgers Lacrosse Team.

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 nothing new to report.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki reported on the opening day of Crystal Spring Family Waterpark, this Saturday, May 28, 2022. She further reported that the Fishing Derby will be held on June 4, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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.

Council President Wendell opened the meeting to the public.

Troy Bailey – 16 Glenn Court

Mr. Bailey thanked Michelle O'Hara for her 25 years of service. He clarified a few comments he made at the last meeting. He inquired who to contact to report. Mr. Criscuolo informed Mr. Bailey to contact the Department of Public Works.

Angel Albanese - 33 Victoria Drive, Clark, NJ

Ms. Albanese acknowledged the retiring Revenue Collector, Michelle O'Hara, for her 25 years of service, and recognized her as an asset to the Revenue and Finance Departments. She will always remember her smiling face and willingness to help.

She informed the public of Lorraine Maher, the Deputy Tax Collector, who was in attendance. She expressed hopes that the Council will approve Resolution # 17407, appointing Mrs. Maher as the next Revenue Collector for the Township of East Brunswick.

Alex Spielman – 6 Douglas Road

Mr. Spielman referenced Resolution # 17412, a resolution that authorizes a contract extension with Robert Wood Johnson Health Network, Inc. for medical and transportation services for the Township. He requested the Township to commemorate the old Rescue Squad in the Township. He recalls it being a viable resource to the community were many had the opportunity to be trained in their medical profession. He further requested the Governing Body to consider bringing such services back within the community, instead of outsourcing these services.

Arun Ayyagari – 20 Brookhill Road

Mr. Ayyagari stated that the American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law in March of 2021 by President Biden, provided \$350 billion dollars in coronavirus financial relief to State and Local communities across the nation. The U.S. Department of Treasury allocated billions of dollars to municipalities throughout the nation. He inquired on the amount received by the Township.

Jose Schmidt - 26 Lois Avenue

Mr. Schmidt stated that the forest by Tices Lane was cut back. He inquired the reasoning for cutting the trees and how to prevent further deforestation in the Township.

Mr. Schmidt further stated that he was under the impression that properties in East Brunswick were built in the 1980's to meet the Township's affordable housing obligations. He inquired why more affordable housing are being built if the Township's obligations were met. He further inquired how future deforestation can be prevented due to residential redevelopments.

Mr. Goomer addressed the affordable housing obligation statement. He explained that all municipalities in the State of New Jersey are required to meet their obligations or face litigation. However, the Township of East Brunswick is working towards meeting its affordable housing obligations while improving the community.

Yan Bregman – 4 Troy Court

Mr. Bregman inquired who came up with the Affordable Housing laws and regulations.

Thomas Ingrisani - 58 Deerfield Road

Mr. Ingrisani voiced his concerns about the traffic lights by the Firehouse on Dunhams Corner Road and Ryders Lane. He explained that it is difficult to see the light [as the lights difficult to see]. Mr. Criscuolo stated that he would contact Middlesex County.

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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]

Council President Wendell requested Councilwoman Zimbicki to read Resolution # 17404 in its entirety.

Resolution # 17404 **Resolution Accepting the Retirement of Michelle O'Hara as the Tax Collector for the Township of East Brunswick Township**

Michelle O'Hara approached the podium and thanked the Governing Body for their kind words and acknowledgement. She further shook the hands of every person on the dais. Mrs. O'Hara wished her potential successor all the best.

Mayor Cohen acknowledged the dedication and wealth of knowledge of the departing Revenue Collector. She has done the Township a great service and will be truly missed.

Council President Wendell added that Michelle O'Hara always had the answers to any question. He thanked her for all she has done.

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Behal.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:						
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 resolution was approved.

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17405 by title:

Resolution # 17405 **Emergency Resolution to Provide \$ 300.00 Cash Match for a Middlesex County 2022 Arts and History Grant [2/3 vote required]**

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Council Behal.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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 was approved.

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

Resolution # 17406 through Resolution # 17420

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 # 17408 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution #17409 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 17410 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to SHI International Corporation for the Purchase of Furniture for the Municipal Building through the National Cooperative OMNIA Purchasing Agreement Under Contract # 2018011-02 in the Amount of \$46,332.65
- Resolution # 17411 Resolution Awarding a Contract to Dee's Catering, LLC for the Operation of the Food Concession at Crystal Springs Family Waterpark for the 2022 and 2023 Seasons
- Resolution # 17413 Resolution Authorizing a Change Order [Number One] for Contract # 2022-12 with H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc. from \$1,296,000.00 to \$1,333,524.15 for Additions and Renovations to the Department of Public Works
- Resolution # 17414 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 Arts and History Grant for Cultural Entertainment at the East Brunswick Day 2022 in the Amount of \$2,000.00
- Resolution # 17415 Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Hydrant Permits
- Resolution # 17417 Resolution Authorizing St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church and St. Stephen Coptic Orthodox Church to Hold a Carnival on June 4, 2022, and June 5, 2022
- Resolution # 17418 Resolution Authorizing the East Brunswick Arts Coalition to Hold a Jazz Age Lawn Party on June 11, 2022
- Resolution # 17420 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

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CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the following resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda: Resolutions # 17408 through 17411, Resolutions # 17413 through 17415, Resolutions # 17417 through 17418, and Resolution # 17420. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

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

RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL ON FINAL PASSAGE:						
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, as referenced above were approved.

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

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17406 by title:

Resolution # 17406 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Award of a Competitive Bidding Contract to Z-Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc. for the Fern Road Improvement Project in the Amount of \$ 648,131.00 (Contract # 2022-02)

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Council Behal.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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 was approved.

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17407 by title:

Resolution # 17407 Resolution Appointing Lorraine Maher as the Collector of Revenue for the Township of East Brunswick for the Unexpired Term, Expiring December 31, 2022

Councilman McEvoy stated that he wanted this resolution removed from the Consent Agenda to ensure that the new Revenue Collector is properly recognized and acknowledged for her great achievement.

Councilman Behal moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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 was approved.

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17412 by title:

Resolution # 17412 Resolution Authorizing a Contract Extension to Robert Wood Johnson Health Network, Inc. for Basic Life Support Emergency Medical Services Response and Transportation System Services for the Township of East Brunswick

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Zimbicki.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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

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

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17416 by title:

Resolution # 17416 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Raffle License to BPOE # 2370 East Brunswick Elks, for a Merchandise Raffle to be Held on April 18, 2022

Councilman McEvoy requested the date of event listed in the title of the resolution to be corrected to properly reflect, June 18, 2022 [not April 18, 2022].

Councilman Behal moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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 was approved.

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17419 by title:

Resolution # 17419 Resolution Authorizing a Settlement with Fair Share Housing Center in Regards to Hidden Oak Woods, LLC v. Township of East Brunswick (Docket Number MID-L-4828-19)

Mayor Cohen explained the purpose of the resolution.

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan.

Council President Wendell requested a roll call vote on the resolution:

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

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

*****ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION***
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

There were none.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Sharon Sullivan, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Sullivan acknowledged the East Brunswick Boys Tennis Team for winning the 28th Annual Bryan Bennett Tournament.

Governor Phil Murphy appointed East Brunswick resident Mary Pan to the Asian American Pacific Islander Commission which is charged with developing policies to address social and economic needs in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the State of New Jersey.

Kevin McEvoy, Councilman: Councilman McEvoy commented on Mr. Thomas Ingrisani comment about the traffic light on Dunham's Corner Road and Ryders Lane. He too concurs that the traffic light is very dim and therefore very difficult to see. Councilwoman Sullivan clarified that the stop bars on Dunham's Corner Road is to permit the fire trucks to exit the Firehouse during an emergency and to return without obstruction of traffic.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.


ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilwoman Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Behal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



JAMES WENDELL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK

