

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 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
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 # 17421 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2022

Councilman McEvoy moved the adoption of Resolution #17421, 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

Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth on June 19, 2022

Councilwoman Zimbicki read the proclamation recognizing Juneteenth on June 19, 2022. Erum Shakir, Chair of the East Brunswick Human Relations Council, thanked the Governing Body for the recognition of this holiday and expressed feeling honored being present tonight. In her words, Juneteenth commemorates the contributions made in the United States by black Americans, their resilience in overcoming the history of slavery, and their continuous fight against systemic racism.

This holiday gives recognition to the significance of knowing our history, good or bad, and making positive progress for a better future for all Americans.

Paula Quintin also a member of the East Brunswick Human Relations Council, thanked the Governing Body for this honor and acknowledged her fellow members of the East Brunswick Human Relations Council for their support tonight. She stated that slavery is a shameful history of America. Nevertheless, its demise provided hope for a better America. This young auspicious nation chose to recognize that slavery was a moral abomination, and that all men are created equal. America has a long way to go, but the aspirations enshrined in organizations such as the East Brunswick Human Relations Council, which promotes diversity and inclusivity, is symbolic of what America should be, can be, and is. On behalf of the East Brunswick Human Relations Council, Ms. Quintin thanked the Governing Body and accepted the Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth as an American holiday.

The Flag Raising Juneteenth Event will be held on June 17th at 3:00 p.m. at the Monument Square.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY – NO VOTES)

There were none.

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

There are none.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on the unveiling of the COVID-19 sculpture, “Six Feet Apart.” The event will be held at the Community Arts Center on June 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The mosaic sculpture is reflective of the trials and tribulations endured during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are various road improvement projects throughout the Township. Fern Road is scheduled to be milled and paved once school is out. The drainage on Fern Road will be upgraded.

Panhandling in East Brunswick is a growing concern. However, it is a challenging issue to navigate, as the people are protected by their First Amendment rights. However, the East Brunswick Police Department is working towards addressing this concern and assisting those in need.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo reminded the public that municipal offices will be closed on Monday, June 20th in observance of Juneteenth. He further reported on Resolutions # 17422, 17423, and 17424. All three resolutions pertain to the award and acceptance of a municipal alliance grant, which requires the 2022 Municipal Budget to be amended in order to receive and match the grant amount provided by the Middlesex County Municipal Alliance.

Mayor Cohen added to his report by explaining the purpose of Resolution # 17426, “Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Urging the Swift Passage of Bill # S-330, Which Restores Energy Tax Receipts,” which is listed on the Consent Agenda. The resolution urges the swift passage of Bill # S-330, to restore energy tax receipts. Energy tax receipts is money traditionally given to municipalities by public service companies for the use of public rights of way. The funds were once paid directly to municipalities before the state assumed control. The passage of the bill would require the distribution of additional state aid to municipalities under the “Energy Tax Receipt Property Tax Relief Act.”

Rajvir Goomer, Township Attorney: Mr. Goomer reported on Resolution # 17433, an amendment to the Schweitzer water supply agreement. He explained the purpose of the resolution, which includes a provision to decrease the water volume in the area.

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

James Wendell, Council President: Council President Wendell acknowledged Ms. Lawful for her first successful Primary Election in the Township of East Brunswick.

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

Kevin McEvoy, Councilman: Councilman McEvoy reported on the East Brunswick water report and informed the public that notifications were sent to property owners to inform residents of the replacement of their water meters.

Councilman McEvoy inquired about the Route 18 infrastructure project.

Sharon Sullivan, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Sullivan reported that Flag Day is June 14, 2022. There will be a gathering at the East Brunswick Elks for the traditional flag burning event. Refreshments will follow.

Councilwoman Sullivan wished all fathers' a Happy Father's Day.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki reported on several events. The golf outing event was a success. The opening of Crystal Springs was sold out. Crystal Springs is now hiring lifeguards. The Recreation Summer Day Camp and Daisy Program will be available in the coming weeks. There will be a firework display hosted by the Township on July 4, 2022. Food trucks and entertainment for children will be available. Heavenly Farm will have fields A and B remediated. The East Brunswick Jazz Concert held on June 11, 2022, was a success.

James Wendell, Council President– Council President Wendell informed the public of a small firework display in July by StarFire Corp. 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 its compliance with the Township's code.

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.

Antoinette Evola – 45 Merrill Avenue

Ms. Evola voiced her concerns about the women who are panhandling in the Township. She stated that the women are potentially being coerced to panhandle from her observance of fear on their faces. She requested that something be done to protect the women as she is concerned about their safety.

In response, Council President Wendell stated that handing will come to an end if the public stops sponsoring the panhandlers.

Township Attorney Raj Goomer explained that there is little the Township can do. Panhandlers cannot be removed from public property unless they are obstructing traffic.

Shannon Christie – 19 Dean Lane

Ms. Christi voiced her concerns for the women and children who are panhandling within the Township. She stated that panhandlers need to be informed about programs available for their assistance.

Alex Spielman – 6 Douglas Road

Mr. Spielman stated that most states, including Texas, refer to Juneteenth as Emancipation Day. He explained that other forms of issues remain problematic [in the United States], despite the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment. Sex trafficking is an issue that the 13th Amendment does not explicitly abolish. He further stated that black Americans are experiencing other forms of slavery that are not talked about.

Verne Whitlock – 694 Old Bridge Turnpike

Mr. Whitlock acknowledged the Township Clerk for running a smooth and successful Primary Election. With respect to panhandling, he assured the Council that they were addressing the matter appropriately.

David Herrera – 32 Cosgrove Court

Mr. Herrera requested a speed sign or the stationing of a police officer on Cranbury Road to reduce the speeding of vehicles, especially trucks.

Jeff Winston – 44 Fresh Ponds Road

Mr. Winston expressed his excitement about seeing the Township revive itself since the pandemic. He stated that the fishing derby event was exciting. From the music, theme, and children, the event was encouraging and aspiring after experiencing the pandemic. He thanked the Governing Body for all they have done.

Arun Ayyagari – 20 Brookhill Road

Mr. Ayyagari proposed the Governing Body consider appointing a military individual to serve during certain events in the Township, such as Flag Day, Veterans Day etc.

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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 read Resolution # 17422 by title.

Resolution # 17422 Emergency Resolution to Provide \$18,627.00 Cash Match for a Middlesex County Municipal Alliance Grant [2/3 vote required]

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 pulled the following resolutions from the Consent Agenda:

- Resolution # 17431 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Establishment of a Bus Stop Along Edgeboro Road on the Southerly Side of Connerty Court
- Resolution # 17432 Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a License Agreement with the MCUA, 39 Edgeboro Road Urban Renewal, LLC and NJ Transit

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

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 # 17423 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 Municipal Alliance, Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Grant, in the Amount of \$18,627.00
- Resolution # 17424 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the East Brunswick Municipal Alliance to Accept a Grant in the Amount of \$18,627.00 from the Middlesex County Municipal Alliance, Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for the Grant Fiscal Period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 [Form 1B]
- Resolution # 17426 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Urging the Swift Passage of Bill # S-330, Which Restores Energy Tax Receipts
- Resolution # 17427 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to National Auto Fleet Group for the Purchase of Three (3) 2022 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrids Through Sourcewell National Co-Op, Under Contract # 060920-NF in the amount of \$116,539.50
- Resolution # 17429 Resolution Authorizing a Tax Collector Certification of Senior Freeze Program/Property Tax Relief Forms
- Resolution # 17430 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to George Dapper, Inc. for the East Brunswick Recreation Summer Day Camp Busing Services for the year 2022 and 2023
- Resolution # 17433 Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution of Assignment and Amendment to Water Supply Agreement
- Resolution # 17434 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

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CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Resolution # 17425 and Resolution # 17428. 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 were approved.

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

Council President Wendell read Resolution # 17425 by title:

Resolution # 17425 Resolution Authorizing the Redhawk Native American Arts Council to hold a Native American Event on June 18, 2022, and June 19, 2022

Councilman McEvoy inquired whether there will be fireworks, alcohol, and the time the event will close.

Councilwoman Sullivan moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Zimbicki with the stipulation that the event ends no later than 9:00 p.m.

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 # 17428 by title:

Resolution #17428 Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in the Township of East Brunswick for the year 2022-2023

Councilman McEvoy inquired about the liquor license for In the Park Chateau Caterers LLC license and the F & B Chateau Grande LLC. He was explained the differences of both licenses.

Councilman Behal 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		X			
McEvoy			X			
Sullivan		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
Wendell			X			

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

*****ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION***
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING DATE: JUNE 27, 2022**

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 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 June 27, 2022, at the Municipal Building, 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			
Sullivan			X			
Zimbicki	X		X			
Wendell			X			

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, Ordinance # 22-15 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 acknowledged the St. Barts Buffalos 2nd Annual Beefsteak for the Buffalos Charity Benefit event held Friday, June 10, 2022, at the East Brunswick Elks Lodge.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo clarified the purpose of the traffic light settings and the significance of the traffic stop bar at Ryders Lane and Dunhams Corner Road. It was further discussed that the timing of the traffic lights on Milltown Road and Ryders Lane, as well as Riva Avenue and Hardenburg Lane, are problematic.

The work on Main Street and Sunburst Drive is now complete. The Township is now waiting for Middlesex County to schedule the milling and paving of the roads. Detours will resume once milling and paving begin.

Sharon Sullivan, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Sullivan informed the public that the Mayor's Gala will be held on November 9, 2022.

Kevin McEvoy, Councilman: Councilman McEvoy informed the public of the upcoming fundraising golf tournament event and acknowledged Bill Green and Marty Davis. More information can be obtained by contacting East Brunswick Public Safety.

Eduardo "Eddie" Ramos was acknowledged for winning two (2) Tony Awards for the Broadway play "Take Me Out".

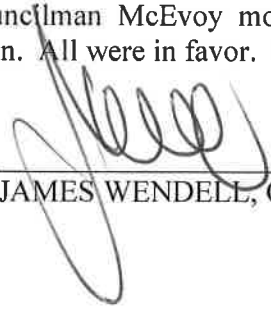
The VFW is hosting a 5K Run/Walk event on July 24, 2022. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the VFW.

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 8:50 p.m.



JAMES WENDELL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK