

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 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 # 23-190 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2023

Councilman Behal moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-190, seconded by Councilwoman Winston. 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	
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous vote, the resolution adopting the meeting Minutes was approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

There are none.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

ORDINANCE # 23-17

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK APPROPRIATING \$3,675,000 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS SEWER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

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. Councilman Wendell seconded the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the public hearing on Ordinance # 23-17.

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

By a unanimous vote, Ordinance # 23-17 was adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-18

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,500,400 FROM THE WATER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the public hearing on Ordinance # 23-18.

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 vote, Ordinance # 23-18 was adopted on second reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 75, OF THE TOWNSHIP'S UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODES 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.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the public hearing on Ordinance # 23-19.

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 vote, Ordinance # 23-19 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on the township's strong financial ratings. The township has an AA+ rating with S&P and an A+ rating with Moody's. These ratings are significant for the township's ability to finance at the lowest rates available. The town pays its bills on time, continues to have a low debt ratio, and has a high tax collection rate.

United Healthcare was acknowledged for moving its headquarters to the Towers in East Brunswick. This is a great step for the community and the Redevelopment 2.0 initiative, in which the township seeks to bring businesses to its corridor.

The class of 2023 was congratulated for their monumental accomplishment.

Students were encouraged to apply for various positions on local boards, commissions, and committees that are now vacant. Local government is an enjoyable and enlightening experience where young adults can learn about government and see change unfold within their own communities. Although student members do not have voting powers, their ability to participate, learn, and contribute to decisions impacting the community can be rewarding.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo reminded the public about the proper way to dispose of mattresses. Mattresses must be enclosed in a mattress bag in order to be picked up. Mattresses are collected on the second collection day in the summer. He further commented that recyclables must be placed in a transparent bag.

Branches are collected once per month, separately from regular garbage collection. To be added to the collection list, please contact Public Works. It was further noted that branches cannot weigh more than 50 pounds or be longer than 4 feet in length.

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 reported on the July 4th Fireworks to be held at the Community Arts Center on Tuesday, July 4th, at 9:30 p.m. The event rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Residents were advised to follow police directions in order to exit the premises safely and expeditiously.

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.

James York – 9 Gates Avenue

Mr. York, a resident of the township since 1971, commented on the church from across his property. He noted that the congregation was always small. However, the new congregation, St. Mary's & St. Stephen's Coptic Church, is substantially larger. The church has limited off-street parking, which impacts on-street parking. Additionally, he finds it challenging to exit his driveway and navigate through the street during carnivals. Mr. York provided suggestions.

Council President McEvoy requested his phone number after the meeting so the administrative office could assist him with these concerns.

Thomas Ingrisani – 58 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Ingrisani inquired about properly disposing of cans, metal chairs, patio chairs, etc.

Mr. Criscuolo informed Mr. Ingrisani of the proper way to dispose of cans and outdoor furniture.

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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT AND BUDGET ADOPTION

Resolution # 23-191 Resolution Authorizing the Reading of the 2023 Municipal Budget Amendment by Title Only

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-191, 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 vote, the resolution was approved.

Resolution # 23-192 Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Amendment to the Municipal Budget of the Township of East Brunswick for Calendar Year 2023

The Township Clerk read Resolution # 23-192 in its entirety.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President McEvoy opened the floor to the public on the 2023 Budget Amendment.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the public hearing on the 2023 Budget Amendment.

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-192, 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 vote, the resolution was approved.

Resolution # 23-193 Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Municipal Budget of the Township of East Brunswick for Calendar Year 2023

The Township Clerk read Resolution # 23-193 in its entirety.

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-193, 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 vote, the resolution was approved.

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

Resolution # 23-194 through Resolution # 23-206

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 # 23-194 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing a Grant Application to the Department of Community Affairs for the 2023 Local Recreation Improvement Grant for the Improvement of the Washington Heights Park Playground Equipment in the Sum of Approximately \$66,000.00
- Resolution # 23-195 Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of East Brunswick and the East Brunswick Board of Education for the 2023 Summer Program Transportation
- Resolution # 23-196 Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of East Brunswick and the Borough of Sayreville for the Use of the Sayreville Police Department Firearms Range Facility
- Resolution # 23-197 Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract with Black Rock Enterprises, LLC as Per N.J.S. 40A:11-6 to Repair a Water Main Break at the Intersection of Diamond Court and Meadow Road in the Amount Not to Exceed \$ 26,500.00
- Resolution # 23-198 Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of three (3) Special Law Enforcement Officers, Tyler Abline, Catherine Barna and Scott Sokolski, to the East Brunswick Department of Public Safety
- Resolution # 23-199 Resolution Authorizing the Middlesex County Fair Association, Inc. to Hold Its Annual Middlesex County Fair at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds from August 7, 2023, through August 13, 2023
- Resolution # 23-200 Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Amusement Game Licenses for the Middlesex County Fair to be Held at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds from August 7, 2023, through August 13, 2023
- Resolution # 23-201 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in the Township of East Brunswick for the Year 2023-2024
- Resolution # 23-202 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution # 23-203 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 23-204 Resolution Authorizing the Return of Deposit for Hydrant Usage Permit Issued to Brunswick Square Mall for Public Events held at Brunswick Square Mall
- Resolution # 23-205 Resolution Appointing Panjak Goswami to the East Brunswick Arts Coalition
- Resolution # 23-206 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-194 through Resolution # 23-206. Councilwoman Winston seconded the motion.

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

By a unanimous 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: July 10, 2023

ORDINANCE # 23-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 209, SECTION 65, ENTITLED "SCHEDULE XXVI: MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS," OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK TO ADD A MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK DESIGNATION ON FERN ROAD

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

Mr. Criscuolo explained the purpose of the ordinance.

Ms. Lawful explained that the agenda incorrectly references the public hearing date as Tuesday, July 11, 2023. The public hearing date for Ordinance # 23-20 and Ordinance # 23-21 is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023.

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 July 10, 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			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki	X		X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous vote, Ordinance # 23-20 passed on first reading.

ORDINANCE # 23-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 209, SECTION 44, ENTITLED "SCHEDULE V: TIME LIMIT PARKING," OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK TO ENFORCE TIME LIMIT PARKING ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF WILLOW STREET

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 July 10, 2023, 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.

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 vote, Ordinance # 23-21 passed on first reading.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Brad Cohen, Mayor: The mayor informed the public of a four-part series, entitled Tax Talk, in which he will explain how to read East Brunswick's property tax bill, the history of taxes in New Jersey, what it means to be within CAP and out of CAP, and how the township utilizes its 20% of taxes collected. Finally, the last series will explain why taxes in New Jersey are relatively high compared to other states.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo thanked the Township's CFO, Angel Albanese, and her support staff for their hard work on the 2023 municipal budget. He also thanked the township staff for their outstanding job and thanked the township council for adopting the budget and for taking the necessary classes and efforts to understand the municipal budget.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.


ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilwoman Winston moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Wendell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK