EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 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 Vice 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
Councilwoman Sullivan
Councilwoman Zimbicki
Councilman McEvoy

Absent: Council President James Wendell

Also Present: Mayor Brad Cohen
Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator
Michael Baker, Township Attorney
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.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # 17449 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2022

Councilman Behal moved the adoption of Resolution #17449, seconded by Councilwoman Zimbicki. With no recommended changes to the meeting Minutes, Council Vice President McEvoy 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			
Sullivan			X			
Zimbicki		X	X			
Wendell						X

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

PROCLAMATIONS

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

ACKNOWLEDGING CHRISTOPHER SERRAO, JAYDEN PHILLIP, JAMES SPARROW, AND AIDEN BALDELLI FOR THEIR ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The East Brunswick High School boys track team won two gold medals in two events at the 2022 NJSIAA Meet of Champions. In their honor and recognition, Council Vice President McEvoy read individual proclamations acknowledging Christopher Serrao, Jayden Phillip, and Aden Sparrow for their outstanding contributions, commitments, strengths, and skills to the East Brunswick boys High School track team. James Sparrow who was also honored, but absent, was given a commemorative copy of his personal proclamation.

Coach Jeff Sundberg came forward and thanked the Governing Body for the worthy recognition. Mr. Sundberg spoke of all four athletes, and their dedication, commitment, and camaraderie to the boy's track team. Each of the recognized athletes, through their hard work and dedication, has earned every accolade they have received. He looks forward to their bright future.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

Presentation:
Township of East Brunswick Municipal Audit
By: John Farina of Wiss & Company, LLP

Mr. Farina presented on the 2021 Municipal Audit. The Township of East Brunswick received an unmodified opinion on the audit. Overall, all aspects of the municipal audit were positive and successful.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

Council Vice President McEvoy read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE 22-16 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF $3,300,000.00 FOR VARIOUS WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $3,300,000.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Council Vice President McEvoy explained the purpose of the Ordinance.

Councilwoman Sullivan 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.

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

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

Council Vice President McEvoy requested a roll call vote on the second reading of Ordinance # 22-16:

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 # 22-16 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported on the successful turnout of the 4th of July event.

Angel Albanese and Sylvia Eryan-Hawileh in the Finance Department were acknowledged for their fiduciary responsibility with the township's finances, overseen by the Governing Body.

A portion of the township's bond will be allocated towards the Board of Education for various projects and improvements.

The New Jersey Attorney General had previously prohibited law enforcement officers from chasing vehicles, which had an adverse effect on crime rates. The prohibition has recently been reinstated. This change will assist in reducing the crime in many communities throughout the New Jersey.

The VFW will hold its 5K run/walk event on July 24, 2022. Those who register in advance will be guaranteed a t-shirt.

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

Michael Baker, Township Attorney: Mr. Baker reported that he has established and maintained communication with the property owners who voiced their concerns about the unkept properties located on Candle Lane, Quaker Drive, and Lantern Lane. The Health Department and other inspectors have visited the properties. A court date is scheduled for August 9, 2022. The Township is making every attempt to get the properties cleaned up.

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

James Wendell, Council President: Council President Wendell was absent.

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 thanked Mr. Criscuolo for addressing the garbage collection issue in the Township.

Mr. Criscuolo explained that the garbage collection issue is predominately workforce related. He requested residents to be patient during this challenging time.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki thanked the Chief Financial Officer, Angel Albanese, for a successful audit and her hard work to ensure the Township's positive ratings with Moody's.

Councilwoman Zimbicki acknowledged Mr. Criscuolo for all he has done in addressing the residents' complaints and concerns for the unkept properties located at Candle Lane, Quaker Drive, and Lantern Lane.

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.

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Prior to opening the meeting to the public, Mayor Cohen provided an explanation of the garbage collection issue throughout the Township.

Council Vice President McEvoy opened the meeting to the public.

Wayne Lyons – 188 Milltown Road
Mr. Lyons from the V.F.W. informed the public of the 5k run/walk event to be held on July 24, 2022. He acknowledged the names of those who sponsored the race. At the completion of the race at noon, he welcomed the public to the VFW for refreshments and entertainment (music).

Michael Moricco – 14 Bennett Court
Mr. Moricco voiced his concern and frustration about the poor condition of the mailboxes in his residential area. He explained that his mail gets wet when it rains. He has addressed the issue with the U.S. Postal Service but was informed that the mailboxes would not be replaced unless they were falling over.

Harold Hayden – 37 Bennett Court
Mr. Hayden expressed feeling like a second-class citizen in the area where he resides due to the poor condition of the roads. He explained that the roads in the area have not been paved since the erection of the residential buildings. He requested the roads to be repaved.

Jessica Laurier – 4 Lantern Lane
Ms. Laurier thanked the Governing Body for all they are doing to address the properties on Candle Lane, Quaker Drive, and Lantern Lane. However, she wanted to bring to the forefront the problematic poison ivy issue on the unkept property on Lantern Lane. She and her family are constantly exposed to poison ivy, which stems from the property located at 6 Lantern Lane. Images were distributed to the Governing Body showing a severe poison ivy rash on her son. Poison ivy is a major concern, along with stray cats, many of which she has taken in.

Thomas Ingrisani – 58 Deerfield Road
Mr. Ingrisani inquired about the cost of garbage collection to be picked up twice per week. He stated that garbage collection once a week causes a heavier load on the garbage trucks. He voiced his support for garbage collection twice per week despite the minimal increase in property taxes.

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

RESOLUTION(S) [Requiring a separate vote]

There are none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution # 17450 through Resolution # 17462

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 # 17450	Resolution Authorizing the Middlesex County Fair Association, Inc. to hold its Annual Middlesex County Fair at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds from August 1, 2022, through August 7, 2022
Resolution # 17451	Resolution Authorizing the Middlesex County Fair Association, Inc. to Hold a Fireworks Display at the Middlesex County Fair on August 1, 2022, and August 7, 2022
Resolution # 17452	Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
Resolution # 17453	Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Hydrant Permits
Resolution # 17454	Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
Resolution # 17455	Resolution Establishing a Lien on Properties in Accordance with the Property Maintenance Code
Resolution # 17456	Resolution Authorizing Renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License in the Township of East Brunswick for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
Resolution # 17457	Resolution Certifying Receipt and Review of the Annual Audit Report for the Year 2021
Resolution # 17458	Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the East Brunswick School Crossing Guard Association for the Period of 2022 through 2025
Resolution # 17459	Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application for the 2023 Fiscal Year Municipal Aid Program and Authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Tices Lane Overlay Phase I & IV Project and the New Brunswick Avenue Road Improvement Project
Resolution # 17460	Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Carla LaRocca, to the East Brunswick Department of Public Safety
Resolution # 17461	Resolution Amending the 2022 Fee Schedule for the Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Resolution # 17462	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, Resolution # 17450 through Resolution # 17462, except Resolution # 17459. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

Council Vice President McEvoy 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 were approved.

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

Resolution # 17459 Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application for the 2023 Fiscal Year Municipal Aid Program and Authorizing the Mayor and Township Clerk to Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Tices Lane Overlay Phase I & IV Project and the New Brunswick Avenue Road Improvement Project

Mr. Baker explained the purpose of the resolution.

Council Vice President McEvoy 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 were approved.

*****ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION*****
SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING DATE: AUGUST 8, 2022

Council Vice President McEvoy read the following ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE # 22-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK FOR THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHTS OF WAY, EASEMENTS AND LAND IN FEE SIMPLE IN BLOCK 320, LOTS 5.01, 5.04, & 6 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 20:3-1, ET SEQ.

Mr. Baker explained the purpose of the ordinance.

Councilman Behal 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 August 8, 2022, at the Municipal Building/Court Room, located at 1 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive, in the Township of East Brunswick. Councilwoman Zimbicki seconded the motion.

Council Vice President McEvoy 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 # 22-17 was approved on first reading.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Kevin McEvoy, Council Vice President – Council Vice President McEvoy announced the cancellation of the July 25, 2022, Township Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilwoman Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Zimbicki seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

JAMES WENDELL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK