

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 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 # 23-216 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-216, 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 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 # 23-22

A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$40,300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$40,300,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Troy Bailey – 16 Glenn Court

Mr. Bailey commented that, despite reservations, he wishes the ice rink project a success.

Alex Spielman – 6 Douglas Road

Mr. Spielman inquired about the final cost of the project and its potential impact on taxpayers.

Louisa Li – [Address inaudible]

Ms. Li stated that the ice rink project will contribute to the community and offer economic growth and recreational opportunities. She spoke about the positive things she liked about the project. With growing concerns with climate change, she inquired whether the township is exploring to implement environmentally friendly strategies for the operation of ice rinks. She expressed concerns with regards to energy management and water management. The ice rink consumes a lot of energy. She spoke of carbon dioxide emissions due to the ice rink refrigeration system, inquired about the utilization of renewable energy, such as solar panels and other mechanisms used to capture and recycle heat, and inquired about the township's direction with the continuous use of fossil fuels versus investing in electric energy. She further expressed concerns with discarding water shaved from the ice sheets. On a final note, she hopes the project comes to fruition and believes it will be beneficial to the community.

Mr. Criscuolo addressed the questions posed by Ms. Li.

Butch Seltzer – 590 State Route 18

Mr. Seltzer stated that he is a member of the East Brunswick Ice Rink Committee. The committee is seeking title sponsors for the ice rink building. Through sponsorship, the township could generate up to \$4 million dollars each year to facilitate the operation of the building. The project will attract people from New Jersey and surrounding municipalities, counties, and states. The arena is projected to generate approximately \$750,000 to possibly \$1.5 million by its third year.

COMMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNING BODY

Councilman Wendell commented that the project will be self-liquidating and pay for itself. Crystal Springs pays for itself, and this facility will also.

Mayor Cohen stated that the project cost is contingent on bid results for the construction of the project. However, the township will appropriate \$40 million in bonds to cover the estimated

construction cost of the project. He asked the Council to approve Bond Ordinance # 23-22 to appropriate the necessary funding to begin the construction process of the project.

Councilman Wendell noted that the developer of 110 Tices Lane, through negotiation, will contribute to the financial costs of the ice rink project, in addition to the land. Additionally, the township has received a three-million-dollar grant from the state of New Jersey noted Mayor Cohen.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no further members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the public hearing on Ordinance # 23-22.

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.

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 # 23-22 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen reported that the Middlesex County Board of Taxation had issued the town's tax rate for this year, 2023. This year's tax rate resulted in a 0.3 % increase for property owners. Property owners received a third quarter estimated tax bill. Estimated tax bills are issued when the municipality has not received the current year's tax rate from the County Board of Taxation. He explained that the third-quarter bill is likely to be higher; however, the final quarter is anticipated to be much lower.

There is a four-part series entitled Tax Talk, in which Mayor Cohen explains how to read East Brunswick's property tax bill, the history of taxes in New Jersey, how the township utilizes its 20% of taxes collected, and finally, why taxes in New Jersey are relatively high compared to other states.

The VFW, the East Brunswick Education Association, and the Mayor's Charity were acknowledged for supporting the "5K Run/Walk" event held in support of veterans and Wounded Warriors on Sunday, July 23, 2023. The event was a success. All participants were thanked.

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

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 that Parks and Recreation is holding a school supply drive until August 12, 2023. Supplies can be dropped off at the entrance of Parks and Recreation located at 334 Dunhams Corner Road. The types of supplies accepted were enumerated. Gift cards from Walmart and Target are accepted and appreciated.

Parks and Recreation were acknowledged for hosting a hot dog day event on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Staff were stationed in front of the municipal building and served free hot dogs to the public. Stop and Shop was acknowledged for their generous donation.

Acoustic Mondays continue through the month of August at the municipal complex at 7:00 p.m.

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 informed seniors of the Senior Freeze program, which is a tax reimbursement program for eligible seniors. He provided the program's contact number. He also commented on Con Edison's rate increase and the charging station for electric vehicles.

Mr. Criscuolo informed the public to contact the Tax Office for information and assistance on the program. He further stated that the township Senior Center can assist in answering questions.

Mayor Cohen explained the meaning of Senior Freeze and how the process works. He encouraged the public to apply. He also informed the public of a new state program called Stay NJ, which allows anyone 65 years or older making under \$500,000 per year to get half of their property taxes back from the state, up to \$6,500.00. The program works similar to the Senior Freeze program.

Troy Bailey – 16 Glenn Court

Mr. Bailey inquired whether the Township explored using open space funds to acquire Block 87 Lot 10.07, an area to be determined as an area in need of redevelopment as per Resolution # 23-217. He further suggested rezoning the area instead of securing acquisition through redevelopment.

Alex Spielman – 6 Douglas Road

Mr. Spielman stated that the New Jersey Legislature is considering a bill that will recognize, create, and designate Central Jersey on New Jersey's tourism maps. The Bill will establish boundaries for North, Central, and South Jersey.

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]

Resolution # 23-217 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, Designating Block 87, Lot 10.07, Located at the Corner of Ryders Lane and Cranbury Road, as a Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment and Directing the Planning Board to Prepare a Redevelopment Plan for Review and Consideration by the Township Council

Mr. Baker explained the purpose of the resolution and the steps taken. Mr. Baker responded on why the township acquired the property in this fashion and that adopting a redevelopment plan

becomes a zoning ordinance for the property but under the statute of the Housing and Redevelopment Law.

Mayor Cohen explained that the area is not part of the township’s open space but sits at the corner of Ryders Lane and Cranbury Road. A developer proposed a plan that is consistent with the existing medical corridor and the redevelopment goals of the community. The area is not a good location for apartments or a single-family residential home. However, it works perfectly as a continuous care facility on the existing medical corridor.

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-217, seconded by Councilwoman Winston. Council President McEvoy requested a roll call vote:

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, the resolution was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution # 23-218 through Resolution # 23-229

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 # 23-218 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of the ARP Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Technology Initiative Grant for Fiscal Year 2021, from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General in the Amount of \$88,777.00
- Resolution # 23-219 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2023 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Ch. 159, P.L. 148) – Public and Private Revenues Offset by Appropriations for the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Technology Initiative Grant for Fiscal Year 2021, from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, in the Sum of \$88,777.00
- Resolution # 23-220 Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for Animal Boarding and Kenneling Services with the Township of Woodbridge
- Resolution # 23-221 Resolution Authorizing the Slovak Heritage Festival, LLC to Hold a Slovak Heritage Festival at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds on September 24, 2023
- Resolution # 23-222 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to SHI International Corporation for the Purchase of Four (4) Fortinet Network Switches through the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, Under Contract Number CK04, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$22,120.76
- Resolution # 23-223 Resolution Authorizing a Reduction in the Performance Guarantee & Cash Escrow for the Hidden Pond Estates Application (# 03-74) for General Site Improvements
- Resolution # 23-224 *Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License in the Township of East Brunswick for the Year 2023-2024*
[RESOLUTION # 23-224 WAS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.]

- Resolution # 23-225 Resolution Authorizing a Change Order [Number One] with Nickerson Corporation for the Furnishing and Installation of Bleachers and Site Work at Heavenly Farms [Field B]
- Resolution # 23-226 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution # 23-227 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 23-228 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Year 2023 and Preliminary 2024 Billing, for Block 320.03, Lot 27 for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Resolution # 23-229 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-218 through Resolution # 23-229, with the exception of Resolution # 23-224. Councilman Wendell seconded the motion.

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, the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda were approved.

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

- Resolution # 23-224 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License in the Township of East Brunswick for the Year 2023-2024

There were discussions concerning the renewal of a specific pocket liquor license in the township. Councilman Wendell expressed concerns about the renewal of the license.

Councilman Wendell moved to table Resolution # 23-24, seconded by Councilwoman Winston:

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 roll call vote, the resolution was tabled.

**ORDINANCE(S)
FOR INTRODUCTION**

Scheduled Public Hearing Date: N/A

There were none.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

James Wendell, Councilman: Councilman Wendell echoed the Mayor’s comments concerning the VFW’s “5K Run/Walk” held on Sunday, July 23, 2023. It was a great event.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki reminded the public that the Mayor’s Charity Gala is scheduled for October 17, 2023, at the Park Chateau. This year’s honorees are Mr. Alexander, Danielle Blaylock from the East Brunswick Public Schools, Northfield Bank, and the East Brunswick Woman’s Club. The public was encouraged to support the event and the cause.

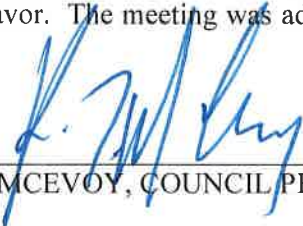
Kevin McEvoy, Council President: Council President McEvoy discussed the East Brunswick PBA Golf Tournament to be held on August 30, 2023, at the Mercer Oaks Golf Course, located at 725 Village Road West, Princeton Junction. Anyone interested should contact Sergeant Tom Appell at pba145golf@ebpd.net. The cost to participate is \$175, which includes golf and lunch. The due date to register for the fund-raising event is August 13, 2023.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilman Wendell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Behal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST: 

TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK

