

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 14, 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.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
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Resolution # 23-230 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2023

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-230, 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

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL LIFEGUARD APPRECIATION DAY**

Councilwoman Zimbicki introduced the proclamation recognizing International Lifeguard Appreciation Day. Lifeguards play a meaningful role as they are tasked with rationalizing with the public while ensuring their safety in the water. She thanked the East Brunswick lifeguards for their commitment and outstanding services to our community. Councilwoman Zimbicki proceeded to read the proclamation honoring all lifeguards and the lifeguards serving the Township of East Brunswick.

John Roche, Aquatics Director of Crystal Springs Family Waterpark, accepted a commemorative copy of the proclamation on behalf of the entire aquatic team. He thanked the Council for their continuous support. Lastly, he thanked the aquatic staff for their hard work and dedication.

Robert Zuckerman, Economic Development Officer, presented a proclamation to the East Brunswick aquatic team on behalf of the State Legislature and Assemblyman Sterley Stanley. He proceeded to read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Cohen expressed how proud he is of the township's lifeguards, their skills, and their responsibility to ensure the safety of the public.

Mr. Criscuolo read an email from a resident who expressed how comfortable and safe she felt swimming with her children at the Crystal Springs Family Waterpark. She stated that during one of her visits, there was a child experiencing difficulties staying afloat. A lifeguard quickly jumped in to assist the child. She thanked the lifeguards for their dedication, hard work, and ensuring our safety.

The meeting entered a brief recess at 7:43 p.m. to permit a photo opportunity with the aquatic team.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

**Public Hearing:**

**Re: The Issuance of a New Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License Pursuant to the Historical Method, N.J.S.A. 33:1-9.1 and N.J.S.A. 33:1-19.2**

Mr. Baker explained that in order to accept an application for the issuance of a new liquor license under the Historical Method, the Council would hold a public hearing, as it is doing tonight, at which it would evaluate each application and consider such factors as the intended use, location, and other community related issues that are most advantageous to the township. There was only one respondent to the Township's notice concerning the issuance of a new plenary retail consumption license. The responding applicant was EB Liquor License, LLC. The application was reviewed and is determined to be fully compliant.

Christopher Minks, Esq., came forward as the legal representative for the applicant, EB Liquor License, LLC. He explained that the applicant is the designated developer of the Route 18 corridor, specifically located at 215-219 Route 18 S, a redevelopment project entitled Vermella East Brunswick. The applicant is an entity commonly owned and controlled by Edward Russo, the manager of the redevelopment entity. The purchase of the license is intended to be utilized at the multi-family development for a proposed restaurant. Once the development is complete, the license will be transferred to the owner of the restaurant who leases the retail space.

Michael Hughes, Director of the Redevelopment Agency, came forward. He acknowledged the Council for allowing the project to move forward and for using the Historical Method. This mechanism takes other factors into consideration besides cost. It allows the Council to issue a

license based on what would be beneficial to the community. The goal for this license is to attract a signature restaurant to the Rt. 18 corridor to be enjoyed by the public.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

END OF PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President McEvoy closed the Public Hearing on the issuance of a new liquor license.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

There were none.

REPORTS

**Brad Cohen, Mayor:** Mayor Cohen reported that the township is waiting on bid proposals for the solid waste and recycling collection services. With the impact of inflation, the township anticipates a higher cost for the services.

Mayor Cohen informed the public of the status of the road improvement projects throughout the township.

The public was informed that the final tax bill will be issued in September. The final tax bill will reflect the final rates sent to the Township by the county. The third quarter estimated tax bill previously issued was higher than the final bill because we assumed a greater increase than what was sent by the county. This overcharge will be made up by a lowering of the fourth quarter by what was overcharged in the third quarter. The September bill will be a final bill, not an estimate.

**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 celebrating all dogs on August 17, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the dog park at Bicentennial Park. Free hot dogs will be given to the first hundred visitors to the park.

Acoustic Monday continues 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:

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**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.

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Council President McEvoy opened the meeting to the public.

**Rafek Dawod – 133 Willow Street**

Mr. Dawood spoke about speeding vehicles and vehicles cutting through Willow Street to avoid traffic on Old Bridge Turnpike. He further commented on the 2-hour street parking restrictions imposed on his street. He expressed that residents are unhappy with the new enforcement and stated that the new law should not apply to residents and their guests.

**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]

The Township Clerk read the following resolution by title:

Resolution # 23-231 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of an Alcoholic Beverage License in the Township of East Brunswick for the Year 2023-2024  
*[Resolution tabled at the July 24, 2023, meeting].*

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-231, 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.

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**\*\*\*CONSENT AGENDA\*\*\***

Resolution # 23-232 through Resolution # 23-242

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.

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Resolution # 23-232 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 2023 Municipal Court Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation, and Enforcement Grant, in the Sum of \$16,094.62

Resolution # 23-233 Resolution Authorizing Starfire Corporation to Hold Fireworks Display for a Private Event at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds on August 25, 2023

- Resolution # 23-234 Resolution Appointing Larry Larstanna to the Water Policy Advisory Committee
- Resolution # 23-235 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Award of Contract to PCS Pump & Process Inc. for the Purchase and Installation of a Standardized Monitoring System, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”), for the Sewer Utilities Pump Stations Under the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System in the Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000.00
- Resolution # 23-236 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Acceptance of a Grant for a Strategic Plan for the East Brunswick Municipal Alliance in the Amount of \$18,627.00 for Fiscal Year 2024
- Resolution # 23-237 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the East Brunswick Municipal Alliance to Accept a Grant in the Amount of \$5,000.00 from the Middlesex County Municipal Alliance, Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for a Two-Year Grant Term from September 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025 [Form 1B]
- Resolution # 23-238 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
- Resolution # 23-239 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 23-240 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Year 2023, and the Preliminary 2024 Billing, for Block 322.62, Lot 1 C0487 for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Resolution # 23-241 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Award and Issuance of a New Plenary Retail Consumption License
- Resolution # 23-242 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

**CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

Councilwoman Zimbicki moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-232 through Resolution # 23-242. Councilman Behal seconded the motion.

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

By a unanimous vote, the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda were approved.

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

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There were none.

**ORDINANCE(S)  
FOR INTRODUCTION**

**Scheduled Public Hearing Date: August 28, 2023**

**ORDINANCE # 23-23**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE**

**ASSIGNMENT OF THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FOR 39 EDGEBORO ROAD (BLOCK 834, LOTS 34.11, 4.19, 4.23, AND 4.17) FROM 39 EDGEBORO ROAD URBAN RENEWAL LLC, TO SIGNAL BORROWER RENEWAL, LLC**

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

Mr. Baker 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 August 28, 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 # 23-23 passed on first reading.

**ORDINANCE # 23-24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 209, SECTION 11 ENTITLED "PARKING TIME LIMITED," AND SECTION 44, ENTITLED "SCHEDULE V: TIME LIMIT PARKING," OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK TO EXEMPT CERTAIN RESIDENTS FROM TIME LIMITED PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

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 August 28, 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		X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous vote, Ordinance # 23-24 passed on first reading.

**ADD-ON RESOLUTION**

There were none.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

**Michael Baker, Township Attorney:** Mr. Baker acknowledged Ms. Lawful for her assistance in the process of issuing a new plenary retail consumption liquor license and for pointing out the historical method.

**Brad Cohen, Mayor:** Mayor Cohen stated that utilizing the historical method as a mechanism to ascertain a new consumption liquor license allows the governing body to facilitate the improvement of the community, stimulate growth, and to attract certain businesses to the Route 18 commercial corridor.

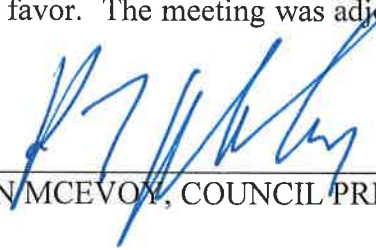
**Kevin McEvoy, Council President:** Council President McEvoy informed residents that senior citizens who received payments from the most recent ANCHOR benefit program can anticipate an additional \$250. For additional information, the public can visit [www.NJ.gov/Treasurer/Taxation/Relief](http://www.NJ.gov/Treasurer/Taxation/Relief) or call 732-584-1406.

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 8:19 p.m.

  
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KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:   
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TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK

