

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 (*Arrived at 7:33 p.m.*)  
Councilman Wendell  
Councilwoman Winston  
Councilwoman Zimbicki  
Council President McEvoy

**Also Present:** Anthony Iacocca, Township Attorney  
Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator  
Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk

**Absent:** Mayor Brad Cohen

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 Asbury Park Press 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.

\*\*\*

<b>APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES</b>
------------------------------------

Resolution # 23-268 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023

Councilwoman Winston moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-268, seconded by Councilman Wendell. With no recommended changes to the Minutes, Council President McEvoy requested a roll call vote:

<b>RECORDED VOTE OF COUNCIL</b>						
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 adopting the meeting Minutes was approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BARGAIN BOOK SALE EVENT

Councilwoman Winston proceeded to read the Proclamation Recognizing the Friends of the Library 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Bargain Book Sale Event.

A member of the Friends of the Library came forward and informed the public that the book sale event will be held at the Brunswick Square Mall from October 9<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. The types of books to be available was mentioned. The public was encouraged to volunteer and support the 48<sup>th</sup> annual book sale event. Councilwoman Winston provided a commemorative copy of the proclamation to the individual, who accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Friends of the Library.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

ORDINANCE # 23-26

**A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,880,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,736,00 IN BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

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.

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

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 # 23-26 was adopted on second reading.

**Brad Cohen, Mayor:** Mayor Cohen was absent.

**Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator:** Mr. Criscuolo thanked the Council for approving the bond ordinance, permitting the township's acquisition of solid waste and recycling containers for East Brunswick residents.

Resolution # 23-269, listed on the Consent Agenda, approves the corrective action plan for the 2022 Annual Audit Report conducted for the Township. Mr. Criscuolo discussed the corrective action plans to address the following concerns referenced in the 2022 audit report:

- Monthly dog report
- Cash disbursement
- Budget Process

All in all, the Township received a clean and positive audit for the year 2022.

Mr. Criscuolo provided a comprehensive report on the repair of potholes and road improvement projects within the Township.

The public may report complaints for potholes and miscellaneous road repairs as follows:

- Local roads - East Brunswick Department of Public Works (DPW): 732-390-6884
- County roads: 732-340-3800.
- State roads: <https://www.njdotproblemreporting.com/>
- Utility Companies: Roads disrupted by utility companies (PSE&G, JCP&L, and Verizon) must be repaired to an equal or better condition by the same company.

**Anthony Iacocca, Township Attorney:** Mr. Iacocca had nothing new to report.

**Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk:** Ms. Lawful reported on the upcoming General Election. In her report, she informed the public that the mailing of Mail-in ballots commenced on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

For those who have received their mail-in ballot, there are three ways to return the ballot:

- Via U.S. Postal Service;
- By dropping the ballot off at the Board of Elections located at 26B Kennedy Boulevard; or
- By using the ballot drop box located within the municipal complex by the Municipal Court and Police Station parking lot.

The last day to register to vote is October 17, 2023. The Middlesex County Board of Elections Office will be open until 9:00 p.m. on October 17<sup>th</sup> to accept applications from new registered voters.

**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 the Mayor's Gala scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> is sold out. The township will host East Brunswick Day this Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Arts Center. There will be over 160 vendors participating. The public was encouraged to attend. The new playground at Sadowski Park has been completed and looks beautiful. Washington Height's Park playground will also receive an upgrade in the near future. Crystal Springs, which closed on Labor Day, had another successful year, despite weather conditions this year. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Gala on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Seats are still available for those interested. This year's Summer Day Camp was a success. The specialty camps were especially well attended (soccer, basketball, etc.). The new scoreboard at Heavenly Farms has been implemented and looks great. The bleachers at Heavenly Farms Field- B is almost complete. The baseball turf at Heavenly Farms Field-C is near completion. The Ryders Lane boat ramp has been renovated. The renovations were made with municipal and county funds. As a reminder, Beaver Dam Park will be closed until May 2024.

The Youth Council received a \$92,000 grant from Lowes to improve the Youth Center. Daisy's tricky tray will be held on April 6, 2024. The East Brunswick Parks and Recreation and the Arts Commission is looking for vendors for the Winter Wonderland event to be held at the Municipal Complex, on December 3, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Additional information is available on the Township's website, Facebook, and Instagram. The Arts Commission is also hosting a lecture/performance by East Brunswick residents entitled "Popera" and will be attended by opera singer Mara Adler-O'Kelly on Friday, October 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Arts Center. The Senior Center received their new 14-seater passenger bus. The Senior Center continues to thrive with many activities to keep our seniors entertained. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board selected their Friends of Recreation and Parks Community Service Award for 2023. The winner will be honored at a future Council meeting.

**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.

**Daniel Bagsic – 932 Malcolm Street, Toms River**

Mr. Bagsic, a Rutgers University student enrolled in James White's class, inquired whether the adopted bond ordinance will increase residents' property taxes for the year 2024?

- Council President McEvoy responded that any impact on property taxes would be minimal to nothing.

**Leo Affouf – 214 Mountain Park, Green Brook**

Mr. Affouf, a Rutgers University student also enrolled in James White's class, inquired about the approved bond ordinance (Ordinance # 23-26), which will appropriate \$2,880,000 and issue \$2,736,000 in bonds or notes for the acquisition of solid waste and recycling containers for East Brunswick residents. He inquired about the average bond amount for the township.

- Council President McEvoy responded with various major projects that require bonds or notes at a much larger dollar figure.

Mr. Affouf further inquired about the necessity of acquiring new solid waste and recycling containers.

- Councilman Wendell explained that the Township is changing its solid waste and recycling collection process.

Lastly, Mr. Affouf inquired whether garbage and recycling collection is run by the township or contracted out.

- Council President McEvoy responded that the services are contracted out.

**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]

There were none.

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

Resolution # 23-269 through Resolution # 23-274

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 # 23-269 Resolution Approving the Corrective Action Plan for the Annual Audit Report for the Year Ending in 2022 in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 Et. Seq.
- Resolution # 23-270 Resolution Appointing Janice Young to the Commission on Aging
- Resolution # 23-271 Resolution Authorizing the East Brunswick Arts Coalition to Hold a Harvest Festival in the East Brunswick Historical District on October 21, 2023
- Resolution # 23-272 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
- Resolution # 23-273 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Year 2023 and Preliminary 2024 Billing, for Block 743, Lot 14 for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Resolution # 23-274 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

**CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-269 through Resolution # 23-274. Councilwoman Zimbicki 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**

There were none.

**ORDINANCE(S)  
FOR INTRODUCTION**

Scheduled Public Hearing Date: October 9, 2023

**ORDINANCE # 23-27**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADDING CHAPTER 97, 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM, TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK**

The 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 October 9, 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 # 23-27 passed on first reading.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

Township Clerk, Ms. Lawful read the following add-on resolution by title:

Resolution # 23-275 Resolution Authorizing St. Mary and St. Stephen Coptic Orthodox Church to Hold a Carnival at its Church on October 14, 2023 & October 15, 2023

Ms. Lawful explained the purpose of the resolution. In her explanation, she stated that the Council adopted Resolution # 23-259 on September 11, 2023. The resolution authorized St. Mary and St. Stephen Coptic Orthodox Church to a hold a carnival at 12 Gates Avenue. However, due to inclement weather, the event was canceled. The church is now requesting permission to reschedule the event from its original approved dates [September 23, 2023, and September 24, 2023] to October 14<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-275, seconded by Councilman Behal. 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, Resolution # 23-275 was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

**Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator:** The East Brunswick Youth Council will participate at EB Day scheduled for October 1, 2023. There will be cups, baseball hats, sweatshirts, and t-shirts for sale. The proceeds will support the Youth Council Program and their endeavors. He encouraged the public to support the Youth Council on EB Day.

**Dana Winston, Councilwoman:** The East Brunswick Arts Coalition is hosting a gallery pop-up at the Community Arts Center on East Brunswick Day, October 1, 2023. The gallery will reflect the work of selected local artists within our community. The pieces to showcase will be on sale. The public was encouraged to support local, hardworking, and dedicated artists in the East Brunswick community. Some of the various participating artists are:

Ayelet Ben Zvi  
Michael Connors  
Kevin Lin  
Janhavi Firke  
Bijaya Paul  
Olga Furman

**Kevin McEvoy, Council President:** Beginning September 26, 2023, members of the State of New Jersey community service outreach team will go door to door to facilitate homeowners in completing the ANCHOR property tax program application.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Council Wendell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Winston seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK

