

**EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 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: 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 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 # 23-276 Resolution Adopting Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2023

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of Resolution # 23-276, 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

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Councilwoman Zimbicki proceeded to read the Proclamation Recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Councilwoman Zimbicki provided a commemorative copy of the proclamation to Ricky Burgos, who accepted the proclamation on behalf of the working disabled. Mr. Burgos gave a brief speech and thanked the Governing Body for the proclamation.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEM

There were none.

AGENDA SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY- NO VOTE)

There were none.

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

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

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.

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			
Wendell	X		X			
Winston		X	X			
Zimbicki			X			
McEvoy			X			

By a unanimous vote, Ordinance # 23-27 was adopted on second reading.

REPORTS

Brad Cohen, Mayor: Mayor Cohen was absent.

Joseph Criscuolo, Administrator: Mr. Criscuolo reported on the mental health of youth and the importance of promoting mental health initiatives. Three employees from the Recreation Department have taken a mental health class and have embraced the program.

On the Consent Agenda, are three (3) resolutions for the procurement of equipment and vehicles [Resolution # 23-282, Resolution # 23-283 and Resolution # 23-284]. The purpose of these resolutions was explained.

The Route 18 waterline repair is currently up to Milltown Road. The construction may cause some delays. But it is certainly addressing important infrastructure issues.

Michael Baker, Township Attorney: Mr. Baker reported on the opioid settlement. In his report, he explained that Attorney Generals throughout the country filed a class action lawsuit against many pharmaceutical companies due to the opioid epidemic. Many of the class action lawsuits have started to settle. Resolution # 23-286 on the Consent Resolution, allows the Township to receive \$18,194.04 from the settlement. The purpose of the settlement is to allow municipalities to offset the additional healthcare costs incurred during the opioid crisis. The township, which participated in the class action lawsuit will continue to receive payments from the settlement.

Tamar Lawful, Township Clerk: Ms. Lawful reported on the upcoming General Election. In her report, she informed the public that mail-in ballots can be returned as follows:

- 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 17th to accept applications from new registered voters.

Early voting will begin at the Community Arts Center on Saturday, October 28, 2023, to Sunday, November 5, 2023.

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 reported that the Township is replacing all water meters for residential and commercial properties. Residents were informed that notification from National Metering Services is not a scam and should not be disregarded. The company is contracted by the Township to replace all meters. There are currently 4,800 properties remaining. The new meters are cost-effective and allow data to be transmitted more efficiently. Please contact the National Metering Services to replace your meter by calling: 1-888-448-0009.

The quality of tap water in East Brunswick undergoes a stringent process and upholds a high standard. Municipal tap water is monitored by the EPA for water quality and undergoes a scrutinized testing process, while bottled water is monitored by the FDA. The tap water in East Brunswick is healthy and of high quality and standards.

The Water Utility is working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) with regard to the construction on Route 18th. The construction project includes upgrading the water main infrastructure. There might be delays once construction begins at Tices Lane due to complications. However, the construction is ahead of schedule.

Dana Zimbicki, Councilwoman: Councilwoman Zimbicki acknowledged John Roche and Ashley Faulcon who work for the Youth Council and facilitate mental health wellness. Mental health is a serious crisis, and we are proud the township is taking the initiative to help our youth with addressing these concerns. Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a truck or treat event at Crystals Springs parking lot on Sunday, October 29th. East Brunswick is looking to start its own community orchestra. Anyone interested, please visit the recreation website and social media page for more information. The Senior Center continues to thrive. There will be an open house on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Residents were encouraged to visit to see programs and opportunities available and to possibly join if 60 years of age or older. Daisy's Tricky Tray will be held on April 6, 2024. The East Brunswick Parks and Recreation and the Arts

Commission is hosting a Winter Wonderland event at the Municipal Complex, on December 3, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The public was encouraged to attend to see the holiday lights. In November, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board will be presenting their Friends of Recreation and Parks Community Service Award for 2023 for the local business and resident. The winners will be honored at a Council meeting in November.

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.

Vern Whitlock – 694 Old Bridge Turnpike

Mr. Whitlock spoke about the 2023 Tours of the Historic Chestnut Hill Cemetery. It is a walkalong, candlelight tour, from October 14th to October 15th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5.00 per child.

The old firehouse from 1928 on Pine Street is scheduled to be demolished. As a member of the Historic Museum, he requested its artifacts to be transported to the museum for preservation.

He informed the Council that multiple streetlights in town were out. JCP&L has been contacted.

[Name Unknown] – [Address not provided]

This individual is a student at Rutgers University and is currently enrolled in James White's class. She inquired about the Council's plans to use the revenue received from the opioid settlement.

- Mr. Criscuolo explained that the revenue is restricted in its use. The revenue can be used for education, treatment, support, and preventative programs.

Kiersten Zinnikas – 431 Hobart Road, North Brunswick

Ms. Zinnikas is a registered nurse at Roberts Wood John. She informed the public that employees went on strike as of July 4, 2023. She explained that Congress enacted the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act in 1986 which ensures public access to emergency services regardless of one's ability to pay. When a request is made for examination or treatment for an emergency medical condition, the hospital is required to provide stabilizing treatment. If a hospital is unable to stabilize a patient within its capability or if the patient requests, an appropriate transfer should be implemented. She advocated for nurses throughout New Jersey, and for reform in all medical fields across the board. She referenced Bill S304-2022, and Assembly Bill A4536 which establishes the minimum registered professional nurse staffing standards for hospitals and ambulatory surgery facilities. She requested the council's support on this matter.

Ryan Siegel – 43 Rath Lane

Mr. Siegel, a registered nurse stated that he appears on behalf of the 700 nurses on strike. Nurses are given an unfair load to handle. We are responsible for too many patients, which can be consequential to our license. He advocates for safe nursing standards. As medicine and technology improve, people are living longer; however, the workload and responsibilities are more intense compared to 10 years ago. Despite whether nurses are paid well, safe working standards must be enforced.

Christian Kane – 7 Shetland Road

Mr. Kane, a registered nurse explained his experienced with staff shortage and patient overload at Robert Wood John Hospital. He argued that there are 116,00 registered nurses in New Jersey, and

30,000 have allowed their licenses to expire. He argued that working conditions are dangerous. Nurses are working harder and longer with less support. He argued for reform and the improvement of working conditions.

Andre Schon- 5 Parsons Road

Andre is a student at Rutgers University and is currently enrolled in James White's class. He inquired about the timeline for schools, and for the new High School to be built.

Thomas Ingrisani – 58 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Ingrisani expressed his sympathy for the devastating catastrophe in Israel. He inquired about the correct direction to ride bikes along the road with moving vehicles. He further inquired about leaf pick-up, and where to leave them.

- Mr. Criscuolo informed Mr. Ingrisani that leaves should be left on the property curb line.

Grace DeCarlo – [Address not provided]

Ms. DeCarlo is a student at Rutgers University and is currently enrolled in James White's class. She inquired about the construction on Route 18 and when the construction will be completed.

- Councilwoman Winston stated that the construction project is a four (4) year project and is anticipated to be completed in 2027. However, construction is currently ahead of schedule.

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 # 23-277 through Resolution # 23-290

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 # 23-277 Resolution Appointing Lisa Green as a Crossing Guard in the Township of East Brunswick
 - Resolution # 23-278 Resolution Authorizing Refunds to be Issued Related to Tax Title Lien Redemptions
 - Resolution # 23-279 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick Authorizing the Tax Collector to Refund Tax/Utility Overpayments
 - Resolution # 23-280 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for the Year 2023, and the Preliminary 2024 Billing, for Block 175.10, Lot 59, for Receiving a 100% Permanently Disabled Veteran Exemption
 - Resolution # 23-281 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to Jesco Inc. for the Purchase of a Backhoe Loader under the Sourcewell National Cooperative Pricing System, Under Contract # 011723-JDC, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$230,000.00
 - Resolution # 23-282 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to National Auto Fleet

Group for the Purchase of a Ford F-550 Chassis with Enclosed Utility Body Under the Sourcewell National Cooperative Pricing System, Under Contract # 060920-NAF, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000.00

- Resolution # 23-283 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to National Auto Fleet Group for the Purchase of Six (6) Ford Vehicles Under the Sourcewell National Cooperative Pricing System, Under Contract # 09152-NAF, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$290,000.00
- Resolution # 23-284 Resolution Authorizing the Application Submission for a Drunk Driving Enforcement Funds (DDEF) Grant for Fiscal Year 2024 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, in the Amount of \$34,881.80
- Resolution # 23-285 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 Middlesex County Municipal Alliance, Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for the Grant Fiscal Period from September 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025, in the Amount of 5,000.00
- Resolution # 23-286 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 Township of East Brunswick National Opioid Settlement, in the Amount of \$18,194.04
- Resolution # 23-287 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 Middlesex County Municipal Alliance, Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for Fiscal Year 2024 Grant, in the Amount of \$18,627.00
- Resolution # 23-288 Resolution of the Township of East Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey Appointing Courtney Fraind as Municipal Court Administrator for the Township of East Brunswick Municipal Court
- Resolution # 23-289 Resolution Appointing Member(s) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Resolution # 23-290 Resolution to Approve the Bill List

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Councilman Wendell moved the adoption of the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda, Resolution # 23-277 through Resolution # 23-290. 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, 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: N/A

There are none.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

James Wendell, Councilman: Councilman Wendell acknowledged the Recreation Department for the new scoreboard installed at Heavenly Farms. The St. Barts Buffalo teams [10U, 12 U, and 14 U] were congratulated for a successful, and competitive year, and for making the playoffs.

Kevin McEvoy, Council President: The Annual Guns and Hoses Flag Football Game will be held at Heavenly Farms on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The fundraising event is to raise revenue for the Susan B. Coleman Breast Cancer Foundation. The players are EBPBA Local 146 and 145A Superior Officers Association vs. the Fire Department's men and women. Donations of \$5.00 can be mailed to P.O. Box 4, East Brunswick, NJ 08816. Children 12 years of age and under will have the opportunity to engage in a friendly skills competition at half-time. The event will have a D.J. The public was encouraged to participate and support a good cause.

CLOSED SESSION

There are none.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to conduct, Councilman Wendell moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Winston seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



KEVIN MCEVOY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TAMAR LAWFUL, MUNICIPAL CLERK

