

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

January 16 2024

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Jakubowski called the meeting to order.

MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "Notice of this meeting has been provided in a legal notice published in the Courier Post and the Retrospect; and posted in accordance with Title 10 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, specifying a 7:00 p.m. meeting time; and that formal action may or may not be taken at all Caucus and Commissioners meetings".

Those in attendance: Mayor Jakubowski, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Whitman, Borough Administrator David Taraschi, Solicitor Salvatore Siciliano, Municipal Clerk Danielle Ingves, Police Chief Tom Tassi, RJ Callaway, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Sustainable Audubon Representatives: Terry Sugihara, Community Energy Plan member as well, and Ann Gillespie for open discussion for Community Energy Plan.

Mayor Jakubowski led the audience in the Flag Salute.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve meeting minutes from January 3, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motioned carried.

**ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: N/A**

**RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:**

**2024-29 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024**

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous roll call vote.

**2024-30 AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO RECEIVE RFP SUBMISSIONS FOR CELL PHONE TOWER LESSEE**

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

**2024-31 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE FY2022 NJDOT TRUST FUND, RESURFACING OF EAST PINE STREET – PHASE II – INCREASE BE \$7,874.86**

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous roll call vote.

**2024-32 AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON AND JOSEPH WHYLINGS.**

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous roll call vote.

**OPEN SESSION:** Commissioner Lee made a motion to open the meeting to the public to discuss the Borough of Audubon's Community Energy Plan; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

This is our second public hearing on the Community Energy Plan. Thank you to all who came out. The original plan was to have the engineer who has been working on this plan to present just a couple of pages of it on the screen. However, he is an hour away with car trouble and two hours away with AAA.

The Mayor asked for any set questions. There were none so he went through the line items. He stated that there were no changes since the last public hearing on the text, but the priority levels were changed. He went through those line items, page 7 of the Plan, and listed the item and its priority. Informed the public to stop him at any time with specific questions on any specific line item.

Commissioner Lee asked about the zoning and permitting for private solar projects. Do we not have those now? Mayor Jakubowski responded that we do have something in place and have had informal conversations with them on how we did and how we can improve it. This will be a study over the existing zoning. I have asked our engineer to look at both of them for EV and for solar and provide us recommendations. Some of these are planning to study and others are for actions.

Commissioner Lee expressed thank you to the Sustainable Energy Task Force for their effort and time they have put into this. The reason he does not have any questions is because they have done such a great job with communication.

Mayor Jakubowski stated that at one of the upcoming meetings, we will see a resolution asking for permission to approve or apply for a grant to start to tackle some of these.

Commissioner Whitman echoed Commissioner Lee and thanked Sustainable Audubon for all their time and efforts and looks forward to hearing more.

Mayor Jakubowski thanked everyone for coming out and noted that every time Sustainable Audubon has something going on, the community comes out.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

**2024-33 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON'S COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN.** The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER LEE:** Kudos to the DPW on not only on two days of trash but making our roads the best in the county. According to social media and public feedback, people were pleased. There are never any problems getting out of his driveway, but as soon as he drives through other towns, he encounters issues. Reminder to residents to watch how they drive. I understand that drop offs and pickups are difficult with snowbanks. Chief Tassi stated that tomorrow people should be extra careful with the delayed opening at the schools as there will not be safeties and navigating drop offs will be a little more difficult.

**COMMISSIONER WHITMAN:** Not much to report, but a huge shout out and thank you to DPW for all their hard work between holidays and the snowstorm.

**MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI:** Thank you to DPW. There is one thing to add as we have received complaints in the past of people not taking care of their sidewalks. This is a reminder for people to treat their sidewalks after the storm. Corner properties especially to clear walkways, but it is important for all residents. You have some time to shovel and treat, but it is really important as children need to walk to school. Please put some salt or sand down after shoveling. We cannot

even state "GO EAGLES", but we do want to say that we are incredibly proud of Joe Flacco and what he has done this year.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

Mr. William Anderson, 238 Ward Ave, Audubon, stated that he still has some skepticism and questions regarding the Community Energy Plan. Mayor Jakubowski acknowledged his comment by stating, "understood".

There were no other comments/questions from the public.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

Closed Session: N/A

Commissioner Whitman a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

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MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI

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COMMISSIONER WHITMAN

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COMMISSIONER LEE

ATTEST:

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DANIELLE INGVES, MUNICIPAL CLERK

DATE APPROVED:

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