

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2024

5:00 P.M.

***MEETING WAS HELD VIA "ZOOM" APPLICATION WITH MEETING ID 349 802 0449

Mayor Jakubowski called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S 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 5:00 p.m. meeting time; and that formal action may or may not be taken at all Caucus and Commissioners meetings. Please be advised that this meeting is not being videotaped tonight."

Roll Call: Mayor Jakubowski, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Whitman are all in attendance.

Those additionally in attendance were Administrator David Taraschi, RJ Callaway, Assistant Superintendent PW, Solicitors Sal Siciliano and Jennifer McPeak, Borough Engineers Steve Bach and Craig Reilly, Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk, Library Board President, Tom Tassi, Police Chief, Brian Conte, EMS, Kurt Bicking, OEM Director, Megan Giordano, Tax Collector, John Dymond, Tax Assessor, Joe Henry, Hardenbergh Insurance

Presentation on Safety by Joe Henry, Hardenbergh Insurance.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve minutes from February 20, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motioned carried.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: 2024-01 Ordinance of the Borough of Audubon, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 62, Traffic and Vehicles in the Code of Borough of Audubon-First Reading-March 5, 2024, Second Reading April 2, 2024. The motion to approve first reading was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman; seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION: 2024-50 Resolution to apply for funding from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism for the implementation and continuation of Camden County's Municipal Alliance Program for the Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2024-July 2025. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor; motion carried.

Department Reports:

Borough Administrator – Jack Bruno and I met last week. We are fixated on the budget. Jack mentioned that we might have to push the introduction of the budget into April. There is a lot of work to do to, but if we have to have it ready for March, we will. We will continue to work on that data so the Commissioners can be informed as to how they want to proceed with the introduction. Nothing else to report.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works – Report attached. Highlights include reinstalled hockey rink fence, delivery of new trash truck, repair and painting of the municipal building's public restroom. Some upcoming tasks include cleaning up turf field, street sweeping and changing the banners on Merchant Street. Otherwise, just normal day-to-day activities.

Chief Finance Officer – No Report.

Borough Clerk – Financial Disclosure Statements will be coming up in April. A reminder email will be sent out at the end of March reminding everyone to complete those. They will be due by the end of April. Reminder that the Primary Election is Tuesday, June 4, and the deadline to register to vote is May 14. I will continue to remind everyone. That is 21 days prior to election. Reminder that animal licensing is open, and all pets should be licensed by March 31 because starting April 1 late fees will begin.

Tax Collector – Report attached. Linda is working to get the sewer bills out by Friday, but they are already posted online if anyone wants to pay their bill online.

Tax Assessor – The Senior Freeze/Property Tax Reimbursement Program applications are available. They increased the income level. That might open it up to more folks and they should look into that with the state. If they have any questions, they can certainly reach out to me.

Police Chief – Report attached.

Fire Chief – Report attached. Alarms answered in February: 44 Alarms answered to date: 98.

OEM – Report attached. With the Fourth of July Fireworks date changed, our IAP plan will need to change. I have been connected with the Celebration Committee and will meet with them before our LEPC meeting which we should be having in April to see what everyone's thoughts are on that to have the plans in place ahead of time. Mayor Jakubowski thanked Kurt for his help and implementation of the CPR classes being held. D. Taraschi added the paperwork has been received from the fireworks company for July 6. We are in good shape, and it has been forwarded to our Risk Manager. Glad to see the contracts came through and there is nothing deviated from prior years' contracts.

EMS – Report attached. 92 calls in Audubon with a total of 204 calls in February.

Municipal Court Administrator – Report attached. Per Com. Lee, within the next two weeks, she will begin interviews for the deputy court administrator.

Construction Code/Zoning Report - Report attached.

Engineer – Report attached. Submitted for the 2024 CDBG application for the continuing internal improvements to the Senior Center. That application was submitted yesterday. The 2023 project is complete for the contract that was awarded. There are some remaining funds, so we are putting out quotes for some additional improvements for the kitchen on the second floor and hoping to have responses back by next week. Lastly, we are in the process of submitting the DCA LRIG application. This is for the Audubon Family Park continuing improvements for the outside of the community center. That application deadline has been extended until April 16. We had to beef up that application for submission because the word is that application has become very popular.

Solicitor – Closed items.

Library – Thank you for a great job on the Senior Center. The library is happy to resume programming once again. The Library Line which is the mailing that goes out to all the residents in Audubon is due out in the next month or so with all their programming for the year.

The Recreation Center – Reminder the YMCA is not only providing summer camp this year, but job opportunities are available for camp counselors as well. The links for the YMCA are on our website and the YMCA's website. February: four private parties and one non-profit fundraiser - March scheduled: five private parties, two non-profit events and HAS/MAS 5K at the end of the month.

Sustainable Audubon – Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month. Per Mayor Jakubowski, he highly encourages all to check out their Facebook page and website as they have a lot going on. There will be one clean up in April prior to Audubon Day. They are planning an event in April with Haddonfield and Barrington on energy efficiency in your household. Sustainable is also leading an event called “Meet your Neighbor” for a Trivia Night and the organizations will be competing against each other. We will see how successful it is.

Board of Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Lee – As predicted the paved roads have increased speed and in turn increased the number of citations that have been written out. So, you have been warned. Also, I am sorry that we have to make this comment, but there are several individuals that are making false statements on the July 4 fireworks. The false statement was that we had made a financial decision on the fireworks and then later reconsidered. We made it very clear. The Mayor’s video was very clear. The fireworks company pulled out on us, and we made the best arrangements we could given the circumstances. It is important that we clarify that. It was not a lack of transparency on our part. I thought we were very clear, and it is very sad that we had to clarify this all yet again.

Commissioner Whitman – Will reiterate what D. Taraschi has said that we are actively working on the budget. As far as the roads go, does anyone know the status is on Wyoming? It is springtime, is it the weather or anything else? Per Com. Lee, there is some discussion on whether to finish over spring break or when the weather is clear. Com. Whitman stated that spring break would be ideal. All Commissioners agree that it needs to be done correctly, which means taking into account the weather conditions and its unpredictability and hoping timing works out.

Mayor Jakubowski. – Audubon Day is Saturday, April 27. Once again the county has promised us their senior vans for the event. The van will be going between Audubon Towers, Borough Hall and Audubon Park to help our senior citizens to travel back and forth that day. If anyone has any questions, we encourage them to call the Mayor’s office and we will direct them accordingly.

Open Session: Commissioner Lee made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor; motion carried.

Since there was no one from the public in attendance, Commissioner Whitman made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor; motion carried.

2024-51 RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR POLICY DISCUSSION

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor; motion carried. Closed session began at 5:27.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to come out of closed session and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor; motion carried at 6:21.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Mayor Jakubowski

Commissioner Whitman

Commissioner Lee

ATTEST:

Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED :