

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 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, Solicitors Sal Siciliano and Jennifer McPeak, Municipal Clerk Danielle Ingves, Police Chief Tom Tassi, RJ Callaway, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, Jack Bruno, CFO, Engineer Steve Bach.

Mayor Jakubowski led the audience in the Flag Salute.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve meeting minutes from May 7, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motioned carried.

### ORDINANCES FOR ACTION:

**2024-03** Calendar Year 2024 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank. First Reading-April 2, 2024 – Second Reading/Public Hearing-May 21, 2024

Motion to open to the public was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried.

There were no public comments.

The motion to close the meeting to the public was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03 was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-04** An Ordinance by the Board of Commissioners to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in the Borough of Audubon to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare. *First Reading - April 16, 2024, Second Reading/Public Hearing - May 21, 2024*

Motion to open to the public was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor motion carried.

Public Comments: The reporter, John, The Retrospect, asked for clarification on this ordinance. It was explained that this ordinance mirrors the Storm Water ordinance and has no restrictions on private property. No other public comments.

The motion to close the meeting to the public was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04 was made by Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:**

**2024-72** Authorizing the 2024 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

**2024-73** 2024 Municipal Budget

*Motion to open to the public was approved by Commissioner Whitman, Second by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor motion carried.*

*The reporter, John from the Retrospect asked about the budget and its cost to the taxpayers. The budget will increase by 3.35 percent. This exceeds the 2.5 percent cap imposed by state law. Per D. Taraschi, Borough Administrator, the average assessed value in Audubon is \$204,000. The property tax hike will result in an annual increase of about \$75.00 per year for a property assessed at that amount.*

*No other public comments.*

*Motion to close to the public was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor Motion Carried.*

*Motion to Adopt was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.*

**2024-74** Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of May 2024. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-75** Resolution Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous. All in Favor motion passed.

**2024-76** Authorizing the Appointment of Steven Bach, P.E., Bach Associates, PC as Borough Engineer for a Term of One Year. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor Motion Carried.

**2024-77** Authorizing the Appointment of T&M Associates, Special Projects Engineer for a Term of One Year. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor in Motion Carried.

**2024-78** Authorizing the Appointment of Salvatore J. Siciliano, Esq., as Borough Solicitor for a Term of One Year. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor Motion Carried.

**2024-79** Authorizing the Appointment of Parker McCay, P.A. Special Labor Counsel for a Term of One Year. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor in Motion Carried.

**2024-80** Authorizing the Appointment of Parker McCay, P.A. Bond Counsel for a Term of One Year. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor Motion Carried.

**2024-81** Authorizing the Submission of the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice Safe and Secure Communities Program. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-82** Authorization to Issue a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1, Certificate No. 15-00028 The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-83** Resolution in Support and Calling for the Modernization of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2930/A-4045. The foregoing motion was approved by Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor Motion Carried.

**2024-84** Approval of the Person-To-Person Transfer of the Plenary Retail. Consumption Liquor License From The Kove Catering Inc. to The Kove Banquet Inc. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-85** Recognizing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor in Motion Carried.

**2024-86** Resolution in Support of the NJ State Legislative Bill A2193 - Creation of License Plates that Allow Disabled Veterans to Park in Parking Spots Reserved for Persons with Disabilities. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in Favor in Motion Carried.

**2024-87** Resolution in Support of RevolutionNJ Program Participation. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor in Motion Carried.

**2024-88** Resolution to Refund a Portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Property Taxes Due for a Totally Disabled Veteran Status for Block 128 Lot 16. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-89** Approving a Social Affairs Permit for the Audubon Fathers' Association for July 5, 2024 at Murray-Trout American Legion Post 262, 20 Chestnut Street. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor Motion Carried. Mayor Jakubowski Abstained.

**COMMISSIONER LEE:** Paving on W. Merchant will begin starting Wednesday through Friday this week between Oakland and Central. Beloit and Creston will also be paved. Please try not to park on those streets.

**COMMISSIONER WHITMAN:** Thank you to Jack and Dave for all the hard work that was put into the budget.

**MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI:** As usual, there is a lot going on. July 4<sup>th</sup> will look a little different this year. The parade, athletic games and the open house at the Fire House are on July 4<sup>th</sup>. However, the fireworks will be held on July 6. There will be live music, trophies and medals from the parade and house decorating contest as well as food trucks. July 6<sup>th</sup> fireworks will be its own festival. An additional event was just recently added to make our July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday a three-day event in town. The Fathers' Association and Murray-Trout Legion have partnered for a fun night at Murray-Trout at 20 Chestnut

Street from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm for music, games, food and beverages. On Audubon Day, we unveiled the new rockers in the playground that honor our first responders and the signs were just recently installed. Affordable Housing, the State is looking to codify how towns calculate. Resolution was approved for energy tax recipients by the State. The money belongs to the municipalities and the municipalities want it returned.

**OPEN SESSION:**

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

John Poliero, 47 Beloit Ave. Mr. Poliero asked about trees hanging over his house and does this ordinance change anything in that regard? The response by D. Taraschi was no and that this ordinance does not change the fact that he can continue to cut tree branches that hang in his yard from neighboring yards.

No other public comments.

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

**Closed Session: 2024-90 Motion to go into closed session for Potential Litigation.** Motion was made by Commissioner Whitman, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried. Closed session began at 7:25 pm.

Motion was made by Commissioner Whitman to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried at 7:36.

Motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 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:

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