

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 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 and Commissioner Whitman were in attendance.

Those additionally in attendance were Administrator David Taraschi, Assistant Superintendent of PW, RJ Callaway, Solicitors Sal Siciliano and Jennifer McPeak, Tom Tassi, Police Chief, Borough Engineers Steve Bach and Craig Reilly, Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk, Library Board President, Brian Conte, EMS, Jean Phillips, Court Administrator, Patrick Slemmer, Fire Chief

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: N/A

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

2024-119 AUTHORIZE THE REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX TO HOMEOWNER BLOCK 83, LOT 18.01 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,929.09 DUE TO A DUPLICATE PAYMENT ONLINE TO THE WRONG ACCOUNT.

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman; seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

2024-120 AUTHORIZING THE DISABLED DEDUCTION IN 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 AS THE TAX ASSESSOR HAS APPROVED THE APPLICATION FOR BLOCK 12, LOT 1.01.

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman; seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

2021-121 AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX TO THE MORTGAGE COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,093.85 DUE TO THE HOMEOWNER HAVING A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION FOR BLOK 128, LOT 16.

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee; second by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Department Reports:

Borough Administrator – Nothing to report

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works – Cleaning and grooming of the turf field, sign replacement, National Night Out in Haddon Heights. Upcoming events include National Night out in Audubon and leaf collection starting soon. Other than that, normal day to day operations.

Chief Finance Officer -- Nothing to report.

Borough Clerk -- The General Election is coming up on Tuesday, November 5. Poll/Board workers are still needed. Any interested parties should reach out to me. October 15 is the deadline to register to vote.

Tax Collector -- Report submitted. Excused.

Tax Assessor -- No report. Absent.

Police Chief - Report submitted. Would like to remind everyone that NNO has been re-scheduled for October 1 and school is back in session. Half days to start, but will be full time soon and get back into our normal cycle. Please keep the safety of our children in mind.

Fire Chief -- Report submitted. Alarms answered in August: 25. Hose and pump testing will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. Looking forward to joining National Night Out on October 1.

OEM -- Report submitted. Excused.

EMS -- 97 Calls in Audubon for August. Total calls for the month: 235

Municipal Court Administrator -- Report submitted.

Construction Code/Zoning Report - Reports submitted.

Engineer -- Report submitted. Regarding Open Space, FY2024 DLRIG Grant as well as looking forward to the Camden County Open Space Grant if we get it; we are coordinating with the state contract equipment vendor to get updated quotes for all accessible playground equipment. Once we have the schematics and quote, we will submit to the Borough for information.

Senior Center improvements for the second-floor kitchen are about 50% complete. Hoping to wrap up in the next couple of weeks. As the materials come in, the contractors are installing them.

The municipal aid project, East Pine and Hampshire, they are hoping to get started next week.

Solicitor -- No item for closed session. Nothing to report.

Library -- Finalizing the audit. Summer reading closed. Total people enrolled in the summer reading was #313 which is about 73 more than last year. Total books read were 4,889, which averages 15 per person. Programs are started to ramp up for the fall.

FJW Recreation & Community Center

August

- Two private parties in August.
- YMCA Summer Camp was a success. Their enrollment was excellent, and the program wrapped up on August 30.

September

- Six private parties scheduled.
- One non-profit event
- One 5K on outside grounds scheduled for September 15, 2024.

Sustainable Audubon – Monthly meeting is first Wednesday of every month. September 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm is the next meeting. They have their mum sale going on now. They are maintaining the master list for the Borough. If anyone is interested in a tree to be added to their curb strip, please contact Sustainable Audubon. We are looking to plant 150 trees over the next three years.

Com. Whitman asked about private property. Mayor Jakubowski stated that if a resident qualifies for the Senior Freeze, we will place on their private property. We may place some on PSEG and/or school board property. It gets complicated as we will have to work out an agreement where we will need access to those trees. We narrowed it down to those who qualify for Senior Freeze. Soon we will be receiving seedlings from the oldest Elm Tree in Audubon. Existing trees growing in a green house. Moving forward, we will receive stronger stock and native trees without restrictions for planting.

Board of Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Lee – Chief Tassi covered most of the bases. Three locations in town need to be looked at as non-parking locations. Not sure of protocol, so will wait to discuss with Chief Tassi first. A couple of them are as a result of a paving project and the other is residents pushing the limits of parking. Preview the fact that we will be honoring one of our officers at the next meeting.

Commissioner Whitman – The Anchor Program mailing went out. If you need to change anything, you have until September 15th. Any new residents that are eligible will receive a mailing as well and they have until November to submit. Payments will start going out in November. Com. Lee asked about renters qualifying. Com Whitman believes they are, but will double check.

Mayor Jakubowski – First day after a holiday and first day of school. It was a challenging day for our Public Works Department with double trash and extra challenges. The few streets driven on looks like the job got done. Good work! The Kings Highway project will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Some activity will be starting now with tree trimming and dead trees being removed. The county is creating a website that will keep up to date daily or weekly updates for the community. We will have a link of that website on our website and our Facebook page so people have access to that. They are not likely to close down Kings Highway. The plan is to put everything down to one side of the road. This will help with detours through town. People will still want to cut through. We are asking our residents and guests to please adhere to all traffic laws including speeding and actually stopping at stop signs. This should only last about one year down from the original 18 months originally planned.

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

No comments from the public.

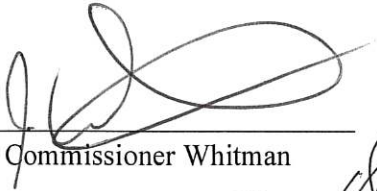
Commissioner Lee made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

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


Meeting Adjourned at 5:18 pm.



Mayor Jakubowski



Commissioner Whitman



Commissioner Lee

ATTEST:



Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED :

9/17/24