

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 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 Whitman, Borough Administrator David Taraschi, Solicitor Sal Siciliano, Municipal Clerk Danielle Ingves, Police Chief Tom Tassi, RJ Callaway, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Mayor Jakubowski led the audience in the Flag Salute.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve meeting minutes from July 16, 2024, seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor-motioned carried.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve meeting minutes from August 6, 2024, seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor-motioned carried.

### ORDINANCES FOR ACTION:

#### 2024-05 Ordinance of The Board of Commissioners of The Borough of Audubon, County of Camden and State of New Jersey Amending Ordinance No. 2024-04 Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance, Section III Regulated Activities, Subsection B. Tree Replacement Requirements The Code of The Borough Of Audubon

First Reading -- July 16, 2024 -- Second Reading/Public Hearing -- August 20, 2024

The foregoing motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in-favor motion carried.

John, The Retrospect, asked to clarify the amendment. Is just Subsection B being removed? D. Taraschi clarified that the original ordinance only applies to trees at the curb strip and not trees on private property and this amendment is to clear up the language to make that clear. Mayor Jakubowski added that other towns regulate trees on private property, but our ordinance does not.

John Polerio, 47 Beloit, questioned what this ordinance is. D. Taraschi responded that it is a requirement by the State of New Jersey for storm water management. So that if a live tree is requested to be taken down and we approve it, replanting has to take place. It is spearheaded by Storm Water Management and the State of New Jersey requiring every municipality to adopt this ordinance. Mr. Polerio asked what type of tree will be planted. Mayor Jakubowski stated that there is a list of trees in the NJ forestry plan of trees that are native and are in

danger. Mr. Poliero will stop by the Borough for a copy of the ordinance which will be provided by the Municipal Clerk.

The foregoing motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in-favor motion carried.

The foregoing motion to approve Ordinance 2024-05 was made by Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-06 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 – On-Street Handicap Parking – Block 38, Lot 29 – 137 Lafayette Road**

First Reading July 16, 2024, Second Reading/Public Hearing – August 20, 2024

The foregoing motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Commissioners Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor motion carried.

Since there were no comments from the public, the foregoing motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in-favor motion carried.

The foregoing motion to approve Ordinance 2024-06 was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-07 Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment and Completion of Various Capital Improvements.**

First Reading August 20, 2024, Second Reading/Public Hearing – September 17, 2024.

The foregoing motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-07 was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. Unanimous Roll-Call Vote.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:**

**2024-114 Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of August 2024.** The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

**2024-115 Authorizing the Municipal Clerk to Receive RFP Submission for Grant Management Services.** The foregoing motion was approved by Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

**2024-116 Approving Rodney Griffith as a member of the Audubon Fire Department.** The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor motion carried.

**2024-117 Authorizing the Appointment of Randolph J. Callaway to the Camden County Air Quality Committee (CCAQ).** The foregoing motion was approved by Mayor Jakubowski, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

**2024-118 Approving a Social Affairs Permit for Audubon Peer to Peer Aid for Saturday, October 26, 2024 at FJW Recreation and Community Center, 602 Hampshire Ave.** The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER LEE:** Absent

**COMMISSIONER WHITMAN:** The tax bills did go out finally. The grace period to pay third quarter taxes is September 5, 2024. If you do not pay by September 5, the interest will be charged back to the original due date of August 1. National Night was rescheduled to October 1. Should be cooler and people will be back from vacations. It was a good call to postpone and should be a great night.

**MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI:** The DPW has done a great job with keeping up with people cleaning out their houses this summer. DPW has been working hard. PSEG has been working hard and our police department has been working to keep it safe on Nicholson Road. That is a major infrastructure improvement that we are getting for our town and region. Per Chief Tassi our DPW guys have been doing a good job down there because there were some intrusions with the sewer repairs. Steve S., DPW, has been keeping an eye on things.

The County has awarded their contract to South State for an 18-month project on Kings Highway. It is a massive project and will be done in three stages. The pre-construction meeting will be soon. The County will be using Covid money and covering all the costs. Chief Tassi and D. Taraschi added to the discussion regarding having our engineers look at the lateral and the hopes would be that Kings Highway will not start until the Nicholson project is completed. Detours with school started would be tough. Maybe they can start in Mt. Ephraim to give them time to finish Nicholson Road. RJ Callaway stated that the mark outs have already been done in Audubon.

Per D. Taraschi, the one block of Hampshire Ave off of Kings Highway will be started on September 2, 2024. It should take about three days only.

**OPEN SESSION:**

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

John Poliero, 47 Beloit, stated that he received a warm welcome from a member of the fire department and he came here to thank you all.

Steve Radie, 261 W. Graisbury Ave, stated that he just had his lead pipes replaced by NJAW and that it would be a good idea for other residents to take advantage of that while streets are being dug up. D. Taraschi explained that Audubon is almost done with that as we were high priority for that project.

Mr. Radie then questioned what the police were doing about the crime in town with the car break ins, robberies, porch pirates and overall crime. He expressed concerns about the shopping center and people parking in the fire lanes and speeding throughout town.

His main concern was that he sees no communication from the police on what they are doing to combat crime especially when other towns post on social media their plan of action etc. He also commented that our meeting times are not consistent because last month the meeting was at 5:00 pm.



He also had concerns about traffic and people blowing stop signs. He stated that he doesn't see the cops on his house cameras.

Chief Tassi responded that his officers are making arrests especially with the car break ins and it does get complicated with juveniles involved. Mr. Radie then emphatically expressed many concerns with porch pirates and how a previous call was handled.

Chief Tassi stated that criminals are arrested, but then it is out of their hands when it goes to the prosecutor's office. Our cops are on the streets. He would prefer not to put their police tactics on social media, but in the end Mayor Jakubowski and Chief Tassi reassured Mr. Radie that a discussion will be had with Commissioner Lee and Chief Tassi to discuss a communication plan for the public.

Mayor Jakubowski also advised Mr. Radie that there are two meetings per month in which he can come to discuss his concerns. The Caucus meeting is always at 5:00 pm on Zoom and the Commissioners' meeting is always at 7:00 pm in person. There is a public session at both meetings.


Joe Miller, 406 W. Merchant Street, stated that he will be meeting with Captain Bauer in the next week regarding a Town Watch meeting and invited Mr. Radie to join.

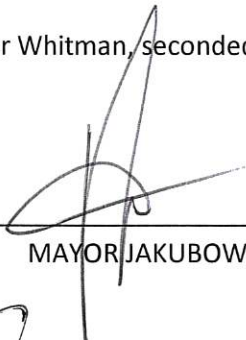
John Poliero, 47 Beloit Ave, is asking per the Public Records act to provide these gentlemen with information about the arrests. Per our Solicitor, all requests for OPRA go to the Clerk, Danielle Ingves, but depending on what is being requested, some information may be redacted and that the Chief cannot as a matter of course release information on arrests. There must be an actual request. All requests must be in writing with a specific request for information. There are some revisions coming soon and there are people that abuse this. This can certainly slow down police work as well as they respond to the many OPRA request that the Clerk receives.

Mayor Jakubowski thanked Lt. Gaspari for leading the project on additional cameras on the grounds at the FJW Rec & Com Center.

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

Motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Whitman, seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

  
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COMMISSIONER WHITMAN

  
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MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI

ABSENT  
COMMISSIONER LEE

ATTEST:

  
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DANIELLE INGVES, MUNICIPAL CLERK

DATE:

  
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9/17/2024