

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 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, Commissioner Lee, 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.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO SERGEANT CANDICE GORMAN.

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

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION:

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

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

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

John Poliero, 47 Beloit Ave, asked questions about the bond specifics. Per Dave Taraschi, we will be purchasing a police vehicle light duty equipment for public works, road and sanitary sewer improvements. All to be purchased as capital improvements and none will be leased.

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

The foregoing motion to approve Bond Ordinance 2024-07 was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

2024-08 Ordinance Establishing the salaries of certain officers and employees of the Borough of Audubon for the Year of 2024.

First Reading September 17, 2024, Second Reading/Public Hearing – October 15, 2024

The foregoing motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-08 was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

2024-09 Ordinance to prevent stored salt and other solid de-icing materials from being exposed to stormwater.

First Reading September 17, 2024; Second Reading/Public Hearing – October 15, 2024.

The foregoing motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-09 was made by Mayor Jakubowski; seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried.

2024-10 Ordinance of the Borough of Audubon, County of Camden and State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 62, Traffic and Vehicles, in the code of the Borough of Audubon on Street Handicap Parking – Block 75, Lot 2 – 130 Walnut Street.

First Reading September 17, 2024; Second Reading/Public Hearing – October 15, 2024.

The foregoing motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-10 was made by Commissioner Lee; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

2024-122 Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of September 2024. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

2024-123 Authorizing the refund of a Fire Pit Permit Fee in the amount of \$10.00 for Block 42, Lot 37 as the permit was rescinded. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

2024-124 Approving a Social Affairs Permit for the Community Rocks Corp for Friday, October 18, 2024 at 100 W. Merchant Street, Third Friday event. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor motion carried.

2024-125 Authorizing a Social Affairs Permit for Heights in Progress for Sunday, October 13, 2024 for an Oktoberfest Merchant Street Event. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

2024-126 Authorizing the Approval of a 50/50 Raffle License #03-2024 for Audubon Peer to Peer Aid on October 26, 2024. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried.

2024-127 Authorizing the Approval of a Basket Raffle License #04-2024 for Audubon Peer to Peer Aid on October 26, 2024. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

2024-128 Authorizing a Social Affairs Permit for Community Rocks Corp for Friday, September 20, 2024 at 100 West Merchant Street, Third Friday Event. The foregoing motion was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried.

COMMISSIONER LEE: Reminder that National Night Out was re-scheduled for October 1, 2024. We are looking forward to that. Construction on Kings Highway has begun with tree removal and trimming. They will not block off the whole street but will shift traffic. On a sad note, our fire department assisted a house fire in Haddonfield and unfortunately, one of the residents was killed in the fire and prayers go out to that family.

COMMISSIONER WHITMAN: To follow-up on the Anchor Program, renters are still included. Checks will be going out soon. Congrats again to Sergeant Gorman! I had the privilege to work with her for years and it is nice to see her be recognized for all that she has done; it is well deserved!

MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI: Congratulations to Sgt. Gorman! It is a reflection on the entire force that we have. We have a great department.

To continue on your comment for Kings Highway, the county has created a website that residents can check on the progress of the entire project. It is broken into sections and will tell you traffic patterns and what they will be working on in the coming weeks. www.kingshighwaycc.com is the website. This is one thing that when met with them months ago that we agreed on. We have had some great infrastructure projects going on in the last couple of years and it has definitely been painful at times, but we did learn from those. We agreed that we need better communication for our residents. We thank the County Commissioners for that.

Leafing season is coming up so get ready and we will be communicating about that as well.

OPEN SESSION:

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

Rudy Avizius, 424 West Pine Street. Wants to talk about the trees that are being taken down on Kings Highway. Asked if the Borough was okay with the taking down of so many trees.

Per Mayor Jakubowski, there were a number of trees that were dead and could not be saved. There are a number of trees further down that they want so to save and with that they will be widening the strip to save it. It will be narrowing the roadway which, according to the engineers, will be a deterrent for speeding. We were aware of this, but part of the agreement is that they are spending a lot of money on this project, and we are going to be given money to plant more trees on Kings Highway or another party of town to replace them. We know there is a lot of plumbing going on and we do not know what is going on with the root system impacting the plumbing. Sometimes it is a balance we have to weigh on each project. Sometimes we have to sacrifice a few trees for a better roadway and for sewers to be replaced. Sometimes, a couple of trees cannot stand in the way of really what is a 10-million-dollar project that had to happen. The trees will be replaced, and we will be planting an additional 150 trees from additional funding. Per Com. Lee, around the Kunkel's area, the trees all had to be removed because they are creating additional parking for the businesses. Per Chief Tassi, Audubon is at a disadvantage because our curb strips are so narrow. Per Com. Whitman, the trees were always a huge part of the discussion for these projects.