

MEETING MINUTES

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
COUNTY OF OCEAN
BUSINESS MEETING
April 16, 2024
6:00 pm**

Call to Order

Flag Salute

ROLL CALL: BAULDERSTONE X LOPARO X DODD X

STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending a copy of the Notice of Meeting to two newspapers, The Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City. The Notice was posted at the office of the Township Clerk

Proclamations

National Library Week 2024 April 7-13, 2024

Mayor Dodd read and presented the National Library Week Proclamation to Jennifer Lennon, Branch Manager of the Waretown Library.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 14-20, 2024

Deputy Mayor LoParo read and presented the proclamation to Dispatch Supervisors Matthew Van Pelt and Ashley Damodio and Dispatcher Hunter Hawk, to honor National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Committee Reports

Committeeman – Ken Baulderstone

Good evening.

Shredding. The Ocean County Department of Solid Waste has announced the Spring 2024 dates for document shredding. They will be in Waretown on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am or until the trucks are full. Paper only. Four (4) file boxes for each vehicle – no plastic bags.

Ordinance 2024-4. Tonight, the Township is holding a public hearing on this ordinance, required by the State of New Jersey, regarding stormwater regulations and privately-owned salt storage facilities.

Ordinance 2024-5 & 2024-6. These ordinances being introduced tonight are mandated by the State of New Jersey regarding “Stormwater Control”.

Ordinances 2024-8, 2024-9, 2024-10, 2024-11. These ordinances being introduced tonight are bond ordinances for necessary items. 2024-8 is for the New Jersey Department of Transportation improvements. The Township received grant funding in the amount of \$404,340.00. The Township needs to spend the money and request reimbursement. The Township will pay for stormwater updates in the area.

Ordinance 2024-9 is for the replacement of the Pebble Beach Water Treatment Plant that has outlived its useful life. This will update the building, backwash tanks, and computer equipment that is necessary under the Clean Water Act. The Township will be applying for IBANK funding for a low interest loan and loan forgiveness.

Ordinance 2024-10 is for the rehabilitation of the Dock Avenue Pump Station. This is a heavily used station that needs updates and refurbishment.

Ordinance 2024-11 is bonding for the Townshipwide lead service line replacement project. This is an unfunded mandate that the State of New Jersey is requiring each town to handle. The Township will be applying for funding through the IBANK for a low interest loan and loan forgiveness.

The Public Hearing on these ordinances will be 6:00 pm on May 21, 2024

Senior Advisory

Fulfill will be coming on May 13th, early due to the Memorial Day weekend, with their Mobile Food Pantry from 12-1 pm. If you or anyone you know is struggling to put food on the table, please come and attend. Fulfill will give out food and fresh produce. Foodbanks do not always provide fresh produce.

May 20, 2024 - Ocean County Board of Social Services Mobile Unit will be at the Engle Sprague Senior Center from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. The Mobile Unit is there every 3rd Monday of each month from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, for information and any assistance they can lend to a resident and discuss items with family members.

Senior Services

Save the Date: May 29th – Celebrate Older American's Month with an all-day lunch and learn and games. Starting at 9:30 am with different speakers every hour until 12:30 pm. Anyone wishing to attend, please make sure you register with Jean Broadbent, Recreation Director.

All programs and meals at the Engle Sprague Senior Center are very well attended and attendance continues to increase every month. Please register, all are welcome.

Wellness Speaker Programs and activities are offered after every meal. Please pick up the calendar in the back of the room or on the Township website and Township e-mail for events at the Senior Center. There is a new speaker every week.

Ocean County Congregate Meals. Hot Meals are served Monday and Wednesday. Tuesday there is Pizza and a wellness speaker program after the meals. On Tuesdays, Bingo is held for nominal prizes.

Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a wonderful way to socialize, meet new people and just be able to be out of the house. Calendars are on the back table and the Township's website.

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor – Ben LoParo

Thank you for coming to the Township Committee meeting this evening.

I would again like to express our appreciation for our Police Dispatchers and the fantastic job they do for all of the residents in our community.

Municipal Alliance

The Township Municipal Alliance along with the Police Department will be holding Food Drives. Saturday, May 11th at the Greenbriar Clubhouse from 12pm-3pm and on May 18th in the Firehouse parking lot 4pm-7pm. This is a great opportunity to assist your neighbors who are struggling at this time.

Please be reminded classes for Zumba, Toning, Forever Young and Line Dancing have resumed at the Community Center. Yoga is being offered Tuesdays from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and now on Mondays & Tuesdays, Gentle Yoga is from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. A person can pay by class. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Recreation Trips

July 14, 2024 Yankees vs. Orioles at Camden Yards is sold out. Recreation will be holding a waiting list for any cancellations. The cost is \$99.00 per person.

October 23, 2024 – Sight and Sound, the show is Daniel. The cost is \$184.00 per person. This fee includes lunch and transportation.

All of these trips sell out each year. Please reserve your seat. The information is on the Township website or come to Town Hall.

There will be a Food Truck Festival on June 22, 2024 on the ballfields at the school. Information can be found at Town Hall.

Thank you.

Mayor – Lydia M. Dodd

Thank you for joining us this evening.

March 2024 Construction/Zoning Report

Zoning Department. 53 applications approved, 7 applications pending review and 7 denial applications.

Code Enforcement. 29 Notices of Violation and 8 Abated Violations.

Construction. 67 Construction Permits issued and 40 updates.

Budget Information

Ordinance 2024-7, Resolutions 2024-141, 2024-142, 2024-143. These items are required by the State of New Jersey for the introduction and reading of the 2024 Municipal Budget.

The Budget introduced tonight will be posted on the Township website and the Budget Summary will be published in the Asbury Park Press.

The Township of Ocean was ordered to have a reevaluation of the town. This has been completed. Due to the true market values of homes in Waretown, the overall value of the Township has increased. In 2023 the municipal taxable income was \$10,300,949.46 and now in 2024 the municipal taxable income is \$11,043,384.60.

The municipal tax rate for 2023 was 0.761, now in 2024 the municipal tax rate is 0.482 which is a decrease of the municipal tax rate by .0279. Due to the true market value of the homes changing, there will be no Municipal Tax increase in 2024.

As with all Reevaluations, homeowners are likely to see 1/3 of the homes will go up, 1/3 of the homes will remain the same and 1/3 of the homes will go down.

The Township of Ocean is always applying for grant funding as well as low-cost loans when having to make improvements and repairs. Last year the Township received a total of grant funding of \$719,581.63. Some examples are equipment for the Volunteer Fire Department for \$31,000 and bulletproof vests for the Police Department for \$5,150. The Township Committee hopes to obtain the same amount of grant funding for 2024. Also, in 2024, the Township will have tax revenue from cannabis sales.

There are annual costs of doing business that go up, including health care costs, salaries, fuel, electric and rates have been increased at the Ocean County Landfill. This year the Garbage and Recycling contract increased \$150,000. The Township is paying for ambulance services, Monday through Friday, from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm at approximately \$240,000 for the year.

The Township's Ocean County Joint Insurance fund, which also handles the Township's Workman's Compensation plan, has increased but the Township worked diligently to update all areas of cyber security to obtain a discount. The Township has additional funding coming in from cellular carriers on Township property.

The Township is reviewing all items in the Water & Sewer Department to continue to plan for the maintenance of the pipes, pump stations and comply with the Clean Water Act. Also, all of the unfunded mandates sent from Trenton to the municipalities must be complied with.

The budget being introduced represents a remarkable job of balancing the needs of sustaining a professional municipal operation versus the financial realities of our taxpayers. It is a delicate balance between the two, but I firmly believe we have struck that balance with the budget being introduced.

Resolution 2024-146. Due to Louis (Rico) Fisher retiring April 30, 2024, the Township is hiring a Construction Official, Martin Tellekamp. This is an agreement for 4 years. Martin will also remain as the Plumbing Subcode Official.

Ordinance 2024-12. Tonight is the first reading of this ordinance. The 2nd Reading Public Hearing will be on May 21, 2024. This ordinance is updating the minimum parking requirements. This will assist small businesses with meeting the parking requirements without having to go in front of the Board for a waiver or variance.

Resolution 2024-147. This resolution is appointing Marie Leaming, School Board Member, to the Planning Board. Welcome Marie.

Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to open Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

No comment from the public.

Motion to close Public Comment was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: March 12, 2024 and March 19, 2024

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes: April 4, 2024

Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Dodd, seconded by Deputy Mayor LoParo.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Abstain, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-140 Payment of Claims – as presented to the Township Committee for payment thereof in the amount of \$3,675,504.19.

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-4 - 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

An Ordinance of the Township of ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey establishing Chapter 412 of the Township Code Entitled “Privately-Owned Salt Storage.”

Motion to open Public Comment on Ordinance 2024-4 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

No comment from the Public.

Motion to close Public Comment on Ordinance 2024-4 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5 1st Reading – Title Only

An Ordinance of the Township of ocean County of Ocean, State of new Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 322 of the Township Code entitled “Stormwater Control” and specifically Article I Thereof entitled “Non-Pinelands Areas”

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-5 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-6 - 1st Reading – Title Only

An Ordinance of the Township of ocean County of Ocean, State of new Jersey Amending and Supplementing Various Sections of Chapter 322 of the Township Code entitled “Stormwater Control” and Chapter 410 Entitled “Zoning”

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-6 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-7 - 1st Reading – Title Only

CALENDAR YEAR 2024, ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-7 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-141

Resolution authorizing the Township of Ocean has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services and the Chief Financial Officer has determined the necessary conditions have been met to participate in the Self-Examination of the 2024 Budget

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-141 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-142

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE READING OF THE BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-142 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-143

Authorizing the Municipal Budget of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey for fiscal year 2024. The Budget Summary will be published on April 19, 2024 in the Asbury Park Press Newspaper. The Public Hearing on the Budget Resolution will be held May 21, 2024 at the Municipal Building Meeting Room, 50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown NJ 08758 at on or about 6:00 pm for final passage.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-143 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-144

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REFERRING TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND INVESTIGATION TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LOTS AS AREAS IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT FOR NONCONDEMNATION PURPOSES AND OTHER LOTS AND AREA OF REDEVELOPMENT FOR CONDEMNATION PURPOSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-144 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-145

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN AUTHORIZING THE CIRCULATION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF CERTAIN OF THE TOWNSHIP'S BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES AND APPROVING A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE WITH RESPECT TO SAID NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, AND AUTHORIZING AND/OR RATIFYING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-145 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Resolution 2024-146

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN AND THE TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-146 was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-8 - 1st Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER RELATED EXPENSES IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN AND APPROPRIATING \$930,000 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$404,340 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION), AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$922,500 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN TO FINANCE THE SAME

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-8 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-9 - 1st Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PEBBLE BEACH WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN AND APPROPRIATING \$9,762,500 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,762,500 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN TO FINANCE THE SAME

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-9 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10 - 1st Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DOCK AVENUE PUMP STATION, AND APPROPRIATING \$981,750 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$981,750 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN TO FINANCE THE SAME

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-10 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11 - 1st Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR PHASE I OF THE TOWNSHIP-WIDE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND APPROPRIATING \$3,000,000 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,000,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN TO FINANCE THE SAME

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-11 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12 - 1st Reading – Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 410-49 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “MINIMUM PARKING SPACE REQUIREMENTS”

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12 - was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Consent Agenda

The below listed items are considered to be routine by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

- 2024-147 Resolution appointing Marie Learning to the Planning Board as a Class 4 member filling the vacancy.
- 2024-148 Resolution authorizing the submittal of the 2023 Tonnage Grant Application
- 2024-149 Resolution authorizing the release of escrow money for 17 Laurelwyck Drive in the amount of \$333.00.
- 2024-150 Resolution of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey Opposing another increase to the Gasoline Tax and Urging the State of New Jersey to explore all options to sufficiently fund the transportation Trust Fund
- 2024-151 Resolution proclaiming Friday April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day
- 2024-152 Resolution authorizing the release of escrow money for 2 James Drive in the amount of \$163.50
- 2024-153 Resolution authorizing the hiring of Paul J. Orlando as a Building Inspector
- 2024-154 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING AND ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT of Law & PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion to approve Resolutions 2024-147 through 2024-154

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Motion to approve the below listed dates for the use of the Community Center, Corliss Park Lake & Recreation Area, Waretown Bayfront Park & Pier, Toumey Park, and Ballfields:

**Waretown Historical Society – Music in the Park – September 7, 2024
Brooke Reeves – May 5, 2024**

Motion to approve was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Boulderstone.

Roll Call: Boulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Next Scheduled Regular Business Meetings

May 2, 2024 – 10:00 AM – if needed

May 21, 2024 – 6:00 pm

June 18, 2024 – 6:00 pm

July 16, 2024 – 6:00 pm

August 20, 2024 – 6:00 pm

September 17, 2024 – 6:00 pm

October 15, 2024 – 6:00 pm

November 19, 2024 – 6:00 pm

December 17, 2024

***Meetings can be added or cancelled as deemed necessary*

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was moved by Deputy Mayor LoParo, seconded by Committeeman Baulderstone.

Roll Call: Baulderstone: Yes, LoParo: Yes, Dodd: Yes

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date