



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Regular Meeting

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building

7:00 PM

910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Tvrdik called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
- II. **Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act:** This meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act by adequate and electronic notification on January 12, 2025 of this meeting and its location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press and Two River Times and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough's Web Site.
- III. **Flag Salute, Statement to the Public:** Mayor Tvrdik asked Mark Patterson as it was his birthday to lead attendees and members of the Council in the flag salute.
- IV. **Roll Call:**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Thomas Tvrdik	Mayor	Present
William Deerin	Councilman	Present
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Present
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Present entered at 7:01
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Present
Keith Salnick	Councilman	Absent
Patty Cooper	Councilwoman	Present
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Absent
Andrew Bayer	Borough Attorney	Present
Donna M. Phelps	Administrator	Present
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Present
Stephanie Kramer	Deputy Borough Clerk	Present

- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT - Action Items Only:** Mayor Tvrdik opened the meeting for public comment on actions items only. As no one from the public presented, that portion of the meeting was closed with a motion from Council O'Brien and seconded by Councilman Deerin.
- VI. **Administrator's report**
- Ms. Phelps reported that the Borough received Comcast received Comcast franchise renewal fee in the amount of \$40,231.00. Ms. Phelps advised that the Minute Track program that was previously used by the Clerk's office is being discontinued and the Borough has contracted with Civic Plus to provide the program to process agenda packets and minutes of the Mayor and Council and Planning Board meetings to work in conjunction with the Borough website. She and Stephanie completed training last Thursday and hope to the system go live at the March 6th meeting.
- Ms. Phelps added that she has also completed training with the Central Jersey Helsth Fund so she can administer the Borough's health Health insurance plan and provide information to the Borough employees.
- Ms. Phelps thanked the Clerk's and Finance office for all the help to keep thins going while also implementing the new programs and Kelly Burrough for stepping up to help updating the Borough's website, adding that to say we have a good team at the Borough is an understatement
- VII. **Clerk's Report**

Ms. Kramer stated the Clerk's office has busy with the normal flurry of activity for licensing dogs and cat and keeping up with mercantile licenses and landscaping permits. She reported that the volume of OPRA requests continues to rise and thanked Kim Parent for spearheading the requests and working extra hours to make they get done.

Ms. Kramer noted that Planning Board applications seem to be on the rise also and thanked Kim Jungfer for all her help and direction.

Ms. Kramer stated she is learning at a fast pace with will help her when she resumes taking the Municipal Clerk classes. She also wanted to thank the Mayor and Council, Donna, Katie and the Finance Department for all their help and support.

Mayor Tvrdik thanked Ms. Kramer for the incredible job she is doing and the entire team for stepping up,

VII. Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance #1104.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SETTING FORTH AND AMENDING THE SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICERS AND BOROUGH EMPLOYEES PASSED AND APPROVED MARCH 16, 1939 AND LAST REVISED AND APPROVED ON APRIL 18, 2024"This ordinance was withdrawn.

VIII Consent Agenda

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| #2025-76 | 1. | Resolution authorizing payment of Bil List 02-20-2025 |
| #2025-77 | 2. | Resolution awarding a contract to Collier Engineering for a FMERA project |
| #2025-78 | 3. | Resolution authorizing an emergency temporary appropriation |
| #2025-79 | 4. | Resolution authorizing the purchase of a vehicle for Borough of Rumson |
| #2025-80 | 5. | Resolution appointing a Class I special officer |
| #2025-81 | 6. | Resolution appointing two members to the Recreation Committee |
| #2025-82 | 7. | Resolution authorizing a shared service for payroll services with Monmouth Beach |
| #2025-83 | 8. | Resolution authorizing additional compensation for Jason Sutton. |
| #2025-84 | 9. | Resolution authorizing a donation of a fire truck to PAP Chemical Hose Co. |
| #2025-85 | 10. | Resolution authorizing a tax refund for overpayment |
| #2025-86 | 11. | Resolution approving the Emergency Operations Plan and Mutual Aid Agreement with the County. |
| #2025-87 | 12. | Resolution authorizing the 2025 SCAT agreement with the County |

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Richard Gallo, Councilman
SECONDER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Cooper
ABSENT:	Salnick

IX. Introduction and first reading of Ordinance #1105.

Councilwoman Cooper called for the introduction of "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SETTING FORTH AND AMENDING THE SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICERS AND BOROUGH EMPLOYEES PASSED AND APPROVED MARCH 16, 1939 AND LAST REVISED AND APPROVED ON DECEMBER 17, 2024" and then asked the Deputy Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, after which Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the Ordinance upon first reading and to hold the PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed ordinance at the Council meeting of March 6, 2025 and to advertise same in accordance with the law, which was seconded by Councilman O'Brien.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Patricia Cooper, Council President
SECONDER:	William Deering, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Cooper, Keeshen, O'Brien
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Salnick

X. Council Standing Committee Report

1. Councilman Deerin reported that Parks and Rec is quiet right now but working on the next event which is the Easter Egg hunt with information the website along with information on Summer Action Camp. The other concern he has had from a few residents is walking dogs without leash especially at Blackberry and Community Center and reminded everyone that dogs should be on a leash.
2. Councilman Gallo reported that Public Works continues to be snow ready and with the last storm the streets were down to blacktop by morning and they did a great job. Mayor Trvdik added that some grass had been plow and Mr. Briskey is keeping a list and will be restoring the damage when the weather breaks.
3. Council Keeshen reported that the Borough did a good job getting the cars off the streets in the last two storm and wanted to thank Buzzy for the weather notifications and updating the website. He continued that he and Councilman O'Brien have a meeting with the new police chief in the near future to discuss goals and finances so they look forward to that.
Councilman Keeshan reported that with regard to the Fire Department they have been investigating and talking to various chiefs about bringing in an administrator which would be a paid part time position. Many of the surrounding towns have done this and with the amount of paperwork and requirements from the state and other agencies it has become to cumbersome for a volunteer so we will talk about this at the next workshop meeting. He added that some issues have come to light recently between the two fire houses and some disgruntled members and complaints filed so the fire inspector has taken on coordinating the investigation with the State which leads us to a place where we need to make sure we are doing the right thing and give the fireman the tools they need to be able to fight fire and do their job.
Councilman Keeshen stated that the next BINGO night was March 8th.
4. Councilman O'Brien reported that it is a pretty slow period right now in the finance department as we ramp up for the budget season but we do have some information to share. First of which is receipt of sports wagering money which we made application for in 2024 and the total this year is \$197,316.00 so we will earn interest on that until we find an appropriate use of those funds. Second of which was the resolution on the consent agenda for a shared service agreement with Monmouth Beach for payroll services. That adds to shared services that we have now with Court, CFO, Tax Collection, a few with the County as well as shared services with the Board of Ed. We continue to try to find way to create efficiency and look for way to utilize the skill of our own Borough employees. Council O'Brien welcomed Wal Gregorian to the Finance department and stated he is doing an excellent job as a new admin and he echoed the statements made concerning the Clerk's office and Finance department and the tremendous jog they have done in the absence of the Borough Clerk. Specifically he pointed out Stephanie Kramer, Kim Parent and Kim Jungfer stating they are doing an awesome job.
5. Councilman Salnick: Absent Mayor Trvdik wanted to mention that Shore Regional had their referendum session and Sea Bright came in to let them know that they are completely against this and their attorney told them what Shore Regional was doing was unlawful forcing a referendum when they are trying to pull out of the district. Mayor said the referendum is on the ballot for next month to do some expansions to the high school and encourage residents to educate themselves on the matter take a look at information on their site.
Mayor Trvdik stated the Oceanport Board of Education is having meeting on February 26th and they invite members of the public to come. It is an agenda for public comment on what is going on and speaking of the schools and attended the first round of the playoffs of the girl's basketball team and cant wait to speak to Mayor Talerico how we slaughter them, but great job girls many of whom are in eight grade so they put on a really good show and Eatontown fought hard, it was a great game. Next up is Rumson on Tuesday and it is always good to support them and watch them play.
6. Council President Cooper reported about the Tree Ordinance that the Council received copies of, she asked that Council review it and get back to her with any questions or comments as we will be looking to introduce it at the next meeting.
Councilwoman Cooper stated she attended the Water Watch committee who has new members and they will begin their testing in March. Environmental Commission has people interested in joining. Those two program will be up and running.

XI. Mayor Trvdik's Report:

Mayor Trvdik has two matters when it comes to planning and development. First an issue with the plowing, a gentleman reached out about Arnold Avenue with drainage and safety concerns. The Mayor forwarded the matter to Bill White to look at it for the road program

and his records show Arnold was last paved in 1999 and he would do a site visit to check on road conditions, drainage and curbing. As we have done a lot of work on Milton Ave., Monmouth Blvd. and just finished Driveway, Arnold may be the right street to tie it all together but Mr. White will get back with his findings and recommendations.

Secondly, our construction official Mike Tulane reached out to Donna and I. He was going through our codes and there is one that pertains to the demolition of structures which requires a \$200 deposit to be collected in conjunction with issuance of a permit. He feels with the large development coming, Netflix along will have 60 demolition permits this year trying to maintain each \$200 deposit would significantly increase administrative workload and is recommending this requirement be removed from the code. The Mayor said he would forward it to the planning and development committee for review at the next meeting.

Mayor Tvrdek reported that we, along with our professionals will be meeting with Netflix in the next few weeks along with Eatontown to discussing valuation of the development, taxation, and community benefits. They are gearing up to close and as the Borough approved phase 1a they are looking to break ground this time next year which means they will start paying taxes to Oceanport as well which means we have a lot of good issues to finalize. The Mayor will be asking two members of the Finance Committee to start joining the valuation meetings and community benefits. He will let everyone know when those dates are. There has been a lot of hard work that has been done not just by us, but Borough employees and Andy Bayer has been outstanding keeping up with all that is going on. Look for updates in the Mayor's message and of course up at the dias after the meeting, phone or email.

Council President Cooper forgot to remind everyone of the community CPR class the First Aid is having this Saturday at 9 a.m. If anyone is interested they can email the Oceanport First Aid Squad just to let them know they will be there.

Mayor Tvrdek wanted to thank DPW workers for the job they've been doing with the snow storms and the crew up here, Donna, Katie, Stephanie, Kim you're doing a great job.

Mayor Tvrdek stated that the FOG group, the business owners on Fort Monmouth, asked him to mention two events they have coming up in the next few months. The first being the Rock and Roll 5k which benefits Lunch Break which will be held Saturday March 15th at 10 a.m. and everyone that signs up will receive their very own leprechaun suite plus a free beer or soft drink with a performance by Brian Kirk and the Jerks. The second event is a night without a bed which is being held at Fort Athletic Club. This event also benefits Lunch Break and the mission is to raise awareness with Monmouth County youth to learn about the plight of families and children who are experiencing homelessness. In addition to raising awareness it raises much needed funds to continue their operation. Participants are asked to sleep in a box for one night in addition to raising pledges for a good cause.

The Mayor added that speaking of families in need just over the course of two weeks from the Kearney fire and all the clothing that was received that they couldn't use, over 100 bags, was dropped off so we are further donating this clothes.

X. Public Comments: Mayor Tvrdek opened the meeting to comments from the public. The following persons appeared:

Gary LaBruno, 50 Wyandotte Ave. Suggested that until such time that the website is back up with the agendas can we have copies of the resolutions attached to the agendas so the public can what the resolutions are. Ms. Kramer stated that presently the agendas and resolutions are on the website just in a different spot which is on the banner Agendas and minutes.

Mr. LaBruno asked about the Fire Department Administrator, other than towns that have fire districts that have paid employees. Only town he knows of that have Fire Administrator is Sea Bright and asked if there are any other. Mayor Tvrdek said West Long Branch does, Monmouth Beach is going to do it and there are others moving in this direction as the volume of requirements and paperwork is becoming too much. Oceanport did have one years ago, Phil Payne. Mr. LaBruno asked if this would be a full time position and the Mayor said no it would be a small part time position..

As no else from the public wished to be heard Council O'Brien moved to close the public portion which was seconded by Councilman Deerin and approved by Council,

XI. Adjournment: At 7:27 PM the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman O'Brien and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Kramer
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK