



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • DECEMBER 17, 2024

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 5, 2024 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 led 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
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Absent
Keith Salnick	Councilman	Absent
Patty Cooper	Councilwoman	Present
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Present
Andrew Bayer	Borough Attorney	Present
Donna M. Phelps	Administrator	Present
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Present
Stephanie Kramer	Deputy Borough Clerk	Present

- V. **Adjourn to Executive Session:** At 7:01 PM Councilman Keeshen made a motion to adopt the resolution to enter Executive Session which was seconded by Councilman Deerin and received the following roll call.

#2024-313 Resolution authorizing an Executive Session, December 17, 2024

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

- VI. **Return from Executive Session:** At 7:28 PM the Regular meeting was re-opened on a motion by Councilman Keeshen, seconded by Councilman Deerin with the following roll call: PRESENT: Cooper, Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, Tvrdik
- VII. **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.
- VIII. **Administrator's Report:** Borough Administrator Phelps reported having spoken with Mike Lopolis regarding the submission of the American Firefighters Grant, in the approximate amount of \$110,000. The grant is intended to fund the installation of vehicle exhaust systems at both firehouses. BA Phelps noted that the grant application was completed today and has been forwarded to Mike for final approval. The submission deadline is Friday. In closing, BA Phelps expressed her gratitude to the governing body and municipal employees for their continued dedication and efforts, stating that their commitment goes above and beyond in making Oceanport a great place to live.

IX. **Clerk's Report:** Clerk Smith provided an update on the employee open enrollment period for both active employees and retirees, noting that the enrollment concludes this week. She stated that several employees expressed appreciation for the process and opted into the authorized benefit plans.

Clerk Smith then reported that a buyer has purchased the property at 14 Allenhurst Avenue and has requested permission to open the roadway, which is currently under a moratorium. The road was fully paved by the County last year. The buyer is seeking to convert the property's electric service to gas.

She noted that per Bill White, past practice has allowed such openings for utility conversions, with advance notice having been provided months prior. However, Bill White did not grant the request in this case. The buyer has since asked to present the matter to the governing body for a possible waiver.

Clerk Smith stated that if the governing body chooses to grant the waiver, a resolution would be added to the January agenda. During the discussion, Councilmember Gallo opposed the request, while Councilmembers Keeshen, Cooper, along with Deerin supported it. They suggested extending the duration of maintenance responsibility by an additional year as a condition.

The Council agreed to add the item to the regular session of the Reorganization Meeting (RE_ORG). Clerk Smith confirmed that the RE_ORG has been properly advertised and is scheduled for Thursday, January 2, at 7:00 PM.

She concluded by thanking the governing body for their support and extended special appreciation to Stephanie, who has taken on numerous responsibilities within the Clerk's Office.

X. **Second Reading & Public Hearing Ordinances:**

#1104 An Ordinance Setting Salary Ranges for Various Positions

Councilwoman Cooper called for the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of an ordinance amending salary ranges and asked the Clerk to read the affidavit of publication of the proposed ordinance by title only ***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 19, 2024*** was published one time in the Two River Times on December 8, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Tvrdik opened the meeting for public comment for this ordinance. As no one from the public presented to be heard, the public hearing was closed on a motion by Councilman Deerin and seconded by Councilman O'Brien.

Councilwoman Cooper made a motion to adopt the ordinance and advertise in accordance with law, seconded by Councilman O'Brien.

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

XI. **Consent Agenda:**

- | | | |
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| #2024-275 | 1. | Resolution approving First Aid Membership - Faigelmeir, Freddi |
| #2024-306 | 2. | Resolution authorizing payment of BILL LIST 12-17-2024 |
| #2024-307 | 3. | Resolution authorizing 2024 budget appropriation transfers, 12/17/24 |
| #2024-308 | 4. | Resolution authorizing participation in the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System |
| #2024-309 | 5. | Resolution authorizing endorsement of TRWRA Applications to NJDEP for McAfee Center |
| #2024-310 | 6. | Resolution authorizing additional compensation to Catherine LaPorta for CFO Shared Services |

- #2024-311** 7. Resolution authorizing additional compensation to Jason Sutton for Tax Collector Shared Services

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

XII. Minutes:

1. Mayor & Council - Regular Meeting - Sep 19, 2024 7:00 PM

RESULT: **ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Patty Cooper, Councilwoman
SECONDER: William Deerin, Councilman
AYES: Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, Cooper
ABSENT: O'Brien, Salnick

2. Mayor & Council - Workshop - Nov 7, 2024 7:00 PM

RESULT: **ACCEPTED [3 TO 0]**
MOVER: William Deerin, Councilman
SECONDER: Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES: Deerin, Gallo, Cooper
ABSTAIN: Keeshen
ABSENT: O'Brien, Salnick

3. Mayor & Council - Regular Meeting - Nov 7, 2024 7:30 PM

RESULT: **ACCEPTED [3 TO 0]**
MOVER: William Deerin, Councilman
SECONDER: Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES: Deerin, Gallo, Cooper
ABSTAIN: Keeshen
ABSENT: O'Brien, Salnick

4. Mayor & Council - Workshop - Dec 5, 2024 7:00 PM

RESULT: **ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Patty Cooper, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES: Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, Cooper
ABSENT: O'Brien, Salnick

XIII. Resolutions:

- #2024-312** Resolution authorizing an MOU with FMERA for Engineering Services - 800 Area Bldg Specifications

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

#2024-314 Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Monmouth Beach court services

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

#2024-315 Resolution to amend 2024 budget for BOE SLEO III Shared Service

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

XIV. Council Standing Committee Reports:

1. Councilman Deerin, Parks & Recreation

Council President Deerin thanked the Mayor and reported that 2024 was an outstanding year for the Parks and Recreation Department. He commended Kelle Borough for her exceptional work, noting that the Holiday Extravaganza event was "off the charts." He also acknowledged the contributions of outgoing members Mark Antonio and Chris Farrell, thanking them for their hard work. Looking ahead, he shared that new ideas are being developed for the 2025 *Summer's End* event. He also praised the Department of Public Works (DPW) for their continued excellent support and thanked everyone involved.

2. Councilmember Gallo

Councilmember Gallo extended his thanks to fellow councilmembers and all Borough employees for their dedication. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

3. Councilmember Keeshen

Councilmember Keeshen also thanked Kelle Borough for the success of the Christmas Extravaganza and congratulated her on becoming a grandmother. He expressed his gratitude to all first responders and announced that the new fire engine is expected to arrive within the next 30 to 40 days. He reminded residents that there is no on-street parking permitted during snowstorms. He closed by thanking everyone and wishing all a happy holiday season.

4. Councilmember O'Brien

Councilmember O'Brien was not present. However, the Mayor shared that O'Brien wished everyone a Happy Holiday and expressed his excitement for Reorganization Day. The Mayor also noted that O'Brien wanted the public to know that Fire Company 1 ("O-1") will be back in 2025.

5. Councilmember Zelnik

Councilmember Zelnik was not present but conveyed his best wishes to all for the holiday season.

6. Councilwoman Cooper

Councilwoman Cooper reported that the Shade Tree Committee has met and is now fully operational with a chairperson and secretary in place. The committee is currently reviewing the Borough's tree ordinance and is actively seeking new members. She also noted that the Waterwatch and Environmental Committees have lacked a liaison presence for approximately a year and a half. In the meantime, she has been working directly with both groups. She mentioned Fred Philpone has been assisting in efforts to recruit someone for water testing through Waterwatch. She concluded by thanking everyone for their hard work and commitment.

XV. **Mayor Tvrdik's Report:** The Mayor addressed the recent concerns regarding drone activity in New Jersey. He reported that he, Borough Administrator, Donna, and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) have spent considerable time and effort investigating the situation, including traveling to Ewing, NJ to meet with representatives from the New Jersey State Police and the Department of Defense (DOD). Although all mayors across the state were invited to participate, the Mayor noted that information remains limited.

On December 12, they attended an additional meeting with Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, who provided a presentation outlining shared concerns regarding drone-related threats. The Mayor referenced additional correspondence dated December 16 and noted that, while several agencies are involved, specific details cannot be disclosed at this time.

He emphasized that, based on current information, the primary threats identified are related to drones potentially crashing or interfering with aircraft. He reassured the public that if these drones were determined to be from a foreign entity, they would have already been taken down. The Mayor expressed concern that residents might attempt to intervene using laser pointers or other means, which could escalate the danger.

He pledged to share any new developments with the public as soon as information becomes available.

The Mayor concluded his remarks by thanking Borough staff for their dedication and support, stating that it is a pleasure and honor to serve as Mayor. He then wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Public comments: The mayor opened up for public comments.

XVI. **Public Comments:** Mayor Tvrdik opened the meeting to comments from the public. The following persons appeared:

- Rosanne Letson, Tinton Falls, offered suggestions on how to streamline processes
- Fred Filippone, Oceanport, thanked administrative staff for their assistance during his term as First Aid Captain

As there was no one else from the public, Mayor Tvrdik closed that portion of the meeting.

XVII. **Adjournment:** At 7:55 PM the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Deerin and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK