



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • MARCH 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 Luke and Nate, from Boy Scout Troop 58 lead 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	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

VI. **Administrator's report**

Ms. Phelps reported that she was getting ready to request reimbursement from the County for the Borough's Open Space Grant for the electric in the amount of \$330,000 and have completed most of the paperwork. We do need a Resolution deeming the project complete and will have that on for the April 3rd meeting.

As discussed, she got back to EDA in response to their funding opportunity as it pertains to the Netflix project requesting funding for the continuing projects at Maria Gatta Park. They responded that the budget originally cited (\$750,000) will likely be reduced. EDA is currently undergoing an internal restructuring, and my contact will be reporting to the leaders of a different division. Once he chats with them to clarify program specs and the budget, he will get back to me.

Ms. Phelps stated she is working on an Ordinance, which is part of the requirement to have Oceanport deemed a NJ Film Ready community which should be ready for introduction at the April 3rd meeting.

Ms. Phelps wanted to take a moment to congratulate Stephanie on handling the Shore Regional School Referendum Election last week. She did a great job, with no incidents. Great job Stephanie!

In closing, I'm turning this over to the Mayor to discuss the Targeted Enforcement Zones to Curb Speeding.

Mayor Tvrdik asked Chief Grimes to come up and the Mayor spoke about the improvements to staffing and equipment to the Police Department. He acknowledged that speeding is a problem. The Mayor gave statistics of police stops last year and Chief Grimes reported on stops year to date. They are recommending Targeted Enforcement Zones which would require mandatory court appearances if ticketed in these zones which hopes that it would be a further deterrence to speeding. Streets identified are in the resolution that would be included in the Targeted Enforcement Zone. Mayor stated this should let everyone know when driving through Oceanport, slow down. Chief Grimes stated that the resolution also allows them to change streets if necessary, adding that even though your street might not be in the Enforcement Zone does not mean officers won't be making stops on every roadway in the

Borough. Councilman Deerin asked the Chief for his opinion speed bumps and the Mayor stated they are problematic during plowing an maintenance. Councilman O'Brien thinks it important to say that there will be signage on the streets indicating the zone.

VII. Clerk's Report

Ms. Kramer reported that last Tuesday's special election, though a long day, ran smoothly with no issues.

Ms. Kramer also reported that previous Council and Planning Board meetings are now on the Borough website and thanked Mike Thulen for all his help the last few months with getting items posted on the website.

VII. ACTION ITEMS:

Consent Agenda

Mayor Tvrdik asked that resolution 2025-117 and 2025-121 be taken separately as there have been some changes after hearing from residents in the area

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|------------------|-----|---|
| #2025-97 | 1. | Resolution authorizing payment of Bil List 03-20-2025 |
| #2025-98 | 2. | Resolution approving tax exemption for Bryan Gomes |
| #2025-99 | 3. | Resolution awarding contract to Intron Technology |
| #2025-100 | 4. | Resolution authorizing refund for overpayment of taxes Block 61, Lot 13 |
| #2025-101 | 5. | Resolution appointing Zakary Jensen as a Seasonal Laborer in DPW |
| #2025-102 | 6. | Resolution appointing Salvatore Lagrotteria as Season Laborer in DPW |
| #2025-103 | 7. | Resolution appointing Jared Carroll as Seasonal Laborer in DPW |
| #2025-104 | 8. | Resolution authorizing Special Events permit Twin Lights Bike Tour. |
| #2025-105 | 9. | Resolution authorizing Special Events permit, Beach Events Skeleton Run. |
| #2025-106 | 10. | Resolution authorizing Special Events permit, Birsdmouth Brewery Bikes and Beers |
| #2025-107 | 11. | Resolution authorizing Special Events permit, Boujee Foodie Con. |
| #2025-108 | 12. | Resolution authorizing Special Events permit, Monmouth Medical |
| #2025-109 | 13. | Resolution awarding contract for cleaning services to Pro Janitorial LLC |
| #2025-110 | 14. | Resolution authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriation to Extend the 2025 Temp Budget |
| #2025-111 | 15. | Resolution authorizing Amendment to the Health benefits Plan |
| #2025-112 | 16. | Resolution authorizing CGP&H contract to serve as Administrative Agent |
| #2025-113 | 17. | Resolution authorizing CGP&H contract for Affordability Asst. and Accessory Apt. Programs |
| #2025-114 | 18. | Resolution Authorizing CGP&H contract for Housing Rehabilitation Program |
| #2025-115 | 19. | Resolution accepting the resignation of Juan Carlos Merino |
| #2025-116 | 20. | Resolution accepting the resignation of Milton Zarate |
| #2025-118 | 21. | Resolution awarding solid waste & recycling contract to Suburban Disposal |
| #2025-119 | 22. | Resolution appointing Kimberly Jungfer Part Time Deputy Borough Administrator. |

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

#2025-117 Resolution Authorizing Exception to Chapter 267-4, Noice for the Riverwalk Development Project

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

- B. Second reading and public hearing on the Ordinance #1106 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CHAPTER 371, "TREES" SHALL BE REPLACED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE FOLLOWING INCORPORATING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOROUGH'S NJDPE TIER ONE MUNICIPAL STORMWATER GENERAL PERMIT.** This matter was carried to the April 3, 2025 Meeting.

X. Council Standing Committee Report

1. Councilman Deerin reported that the fields are open and look great. He reminded everyone that the fields are wet and allow them to dry out before using, adding that Gatta Park fields are almost booked for the season. He also reminded everyone about the Easter Scramble on April 5th at the Community Center. Councilman Deerin reported that the work at Trinity Park is underway.
3. Council Gallo reported that leaf clean up is underway for the month of April, leaves to the curb but please no sticks or branches. Councilman Keeshen echoed the earlier concerns about speeding. He stated he is meeting with emergency services regarding their 2025 budgets.
4. Councilman O'Brien reported that the Finance Committee has been meeting with Department Heads regarding their 2025 budget requests, with the budget scheduled to be introduced at the second meeting in April with the public hearing and adoption at the second meeting in May.
5. Councilman Salnick: Absent
6. Council President Cooper reported about the Tree Ordinance the Committee did take in all the comments of Council and residents and there have been some revisions made and they will be included with the introduction of the revised ordinance. The Shade Tree Committee is planning some education blasts that will be coming out.

XI. Mayor Tvrdik's Report:

Mayor Tvrdik congratulated Stephanie for a job well done with the Special Election adding that the Shore Regional referendum was not approved and he is sure they will regroup and come back with another plan as there is infrastructure work that is needed. Mayor had resident who's son got in a little trouble and needed to do community service so the Mayor helped and had him do a clean up at Gatta Park last weekend. Mayor Tvrdik also spoke about an incident he had over the weekend with some kids on ebikes and with the assistance of Officer Henry they warned them about the dangers of ebikes.

Mayor Tvrdik attended the Board of Education and wanted to tell everyone to attend the Maple Place Play Newsies Jr. March 28th – 30th. He also spoke about Gifted and Talented teacher Ms. Goldsmith took students to the Future Cities competition at Rutgers and an Oceanport group was one of the top 10 teams so congratulations to them and to Ms. Goldsmith as Teacher of the Year. He also reported that the Board of Education will be introducing their budget this year and because of all the new rates there will be a tax decrease this year. Mayor Tvrdik reported also at the Board of Education meeting residents were there expressing concern about leasing Maple Place this summer and he is confident the Board will take into consideration all the concerns and wait for them to respond

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

Mark Paterson, 40 Itaska Place Thanked Councilwoman Cooper and those involved for pushing back on the tree ordinance and listening to the residents.

Also there were a lot on the consent agenda and there was no opportunity for the public to comment. Mayor Tvrdik apologized oversight on his part and there is always an opportunity for the public to comment on action items

William Green, 8 Nicholson Place stated he attended the Board of Education meeting and did not realize the Board was autonomous and felt they don't have the expertise to leasing space and there should be some oversight.

Mr. Green stated he wrote a letter about the bulkhead on Nicholson Place right of way. With this Mayor Tvrdik recused himself due to a conflict at 7:42 and left the meeting room. He asked for a status on this project. Borough Attorney stated that the bulkhead is not

completed on the Borough right of way, the shed needs to be removed and the fencing has to be moved and brought up to code for a fence. This is being put into writing and they have decided not to replace the bulkhead on the Borough due to cost and personal matters and the Borough will be looking at grant monies to replace the Borough portion of the bulkhead
At 7:47 Mayor Tvrdik reentered the meeting.

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

IX Resolution #2025-120 Authorizing an Executive Session – Matters relating to the purchase , lease or acquisition of real property – potential Open Space acquisition and matters relating to litigation, negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege – Affordable housing.

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

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment: At 8:33 PM the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilman O'Brien, seconded by Councilman Keeshen and approved by Council

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Kramer
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK