



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT MAYOR & COUNCIL MINUTES • REGULAR MEETING

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building
910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

JUNE 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act:**
3. **Flag Salute, Statement to the Public:**
4. **Roll Call:**

STATUS	NAME, TITLE	ARRIVED
PRESENT:	Councilman Richard Gallo Councilman Bryan Keeshen Councilman Michael O'Brien Councilwoman Patricia Cooper Councilman William Deerin Councilwomen Kara Manna Mayor Thomas Tvrdik	6:20pm
ABSENT:		

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Kramer, Deputy Borough Clerk
Katie Cassidy, Deputy Borough Clerk
Andrew Bayer, Borough Attorney
Donna M. Phelps, Administrator
Catherine D. LaPorta, Chief Financial Officer

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT - Action Items Only:** Mayor Tvrdik asked if any members of the public wished to comment on action items only. There were no comments. A motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting was made by Councilman O'Brien and seconded by Councilman Deerin. The motion carried.
6. **Administrator's Report:**

Borough Administrator Phelps reported that the installation of the new Thrive 450 outdoor gym at Trinity Park is scheduled for Monday, weather and contractor availability permitting. This marks the final phase of the Trinity Park Improvement Project.

She stated that she has been working in collaboration with Buzz Baldanza and Bill White over the past several years to improve the Borough's CRS (Community Rating System) classification. The Borough is scheduled to meet next week with Danielle Dehart, a CRS Specialist from Verisk, for the

CRS verification visit. This effort is further supported through the Borough's participation in the Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (MJPPPI), which has provided additional points toward improving the Borough's CRS rating.

Borough Administrator Phelps shared that she received an email from Rich Bendock thanking the Borough for placing a Port-a-John at Old Wharf Park during the months of March and April to accommodate osprey photographers. Mr. Bendock expressed appreciation for the gesture and inquired whether the service could be included in next year's budget.

Mayor Tvrdik suggested that the Borough consider establishing privacy boundaries for residents along Riverside Drive due to osprey photographers pointing cameras toward homes while taking photos. He noted that this location continues to grow in popularity each year, and he thought it was worth considering.

She also announced that the Fire Department will be hosting a First Responders Day BBQ at Monmouth Park on July 4th. Dennis Drazin has generously donated the use of the picnic area for the event. The Fire Department is extending an invitation to Borough officials, office staff, and their families. Chief Gallo has requested a head count; anyone interested in attending is asked to contact her so she may provide the Chief with the number of attendees. In closing, Borough Administrator Phelps noted that, while it's hard to believe the time has come already, she would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and Happy Fourth of July—her favorite holiday of the year.

7. Clerk's Report:

Deputy Clerk Kramer reported that Election Day proceeded smoothly and without any issues. She expressed her gratitude to all those who contributed to its successful execution. She provided an update on the community garden, noting that it continues to thrive and that only seven plots remain available. Deputy Clerk Kramer announced that the Borough now has a book recycling bin, located next to the clothing bin in the front parking lot. The bin is part of a partnership with BookDrop, an organization that rescues over one million books each month by working with communities, libraries, thrift stores, and municipalities such as Oceanport. She also announced that the townwide garage sale is scheduled for September 27th and 28th. Registration will be available online and will close on September 24th at 3:00 p.m. to allow the Clerk's Office sufficient time to compile and distribute the participant list.

8. Consent Agenda:

Resolution #2025-177, Authorizing Purchase of Car Computers from Intron Technology for IT Services and Resolution #2025-178 - Awarding a Fair and Open Contract for Architectural Services to Kellenyi Johnson Wagner were taken separately. The remaining resolutions on the agenda were approved. A motion was made by Councilman Keeshen and seconded by Councilman O'Brien. The motion carried.

Resolution #2025-169 - Payment of Bills

:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-170 - Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #24-00015 for Block 138 Lot 14 Known as 100 Main ST:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-171 - Appointing Thomas Klich as Temporary Electrical Inspector

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-172 - Opposing A2145 and S2373 Workers Comp Costs

:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien

AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-173 - Authorizing the Borough to Apply for a 2025 Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-174 - Setting Compensation for Action Camp 2025 Employees

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-175 - Appointing an Administrative Assistant for the Recreation Coordinator

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-176 - Appointing an Administrative Assistant for the Court

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna

NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-177 - Authorizing Purchase of Car Computers from Intron Technology for IT Services

:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Patricia Cooper
AYES:	Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Bryan Keeshen

Resolution #2025-178 - Awarding a Fair and Open Contract for Architectural Services to Kellenyi Johnson Wagner

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
SECONDER:	Councilman William Deerin
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-179 - Resolution Fixing Compensation for Employees and Officials for 2025

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RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-180 - 1st Aid Squad Seymore:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**Resolution #2025-181 - Authorizing Participation in the NJ Coast Coalition
Automated Floor Alert Application:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**Resolution #2025-182 - Authorizing the Approval and Renewal of Liquor Licenses
for 2025-2026:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**Resolution #2025-183 - Authorizing Change Order #1 to the Contract For Asbestos
Abatement and Demolition of FMERA Buildings:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**Resolution #2025-184 - Resolution approving Special Event Permit for OP PTO
Turkey Trot 5K:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**Resolution #2025-185 - Authorizing Submittal of a Grant Application and Execution
of a Grant Contract with the NJ Dept of Transportation:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen

SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-186 - Authorizing Change Order #1- Contract with Trinity Park Improvements:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-187 - Amending 2025 budget for Green Acres Grant for Blackberry Bay Park All-Inclusive Playground:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-188 - Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of Playground Equipment:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution #2025-189 - Authorizing Purchase and Installation of New Fence Under State Contract:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None

ABSTAIN:	None
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Resolution #2025-190 - Authorizing the Supply and Installation of Safety Surface at All-Inclusive Playground at Blackberry Bay Park:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Michael O'Brien
SECONDER:	None
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

9. First Reading Ordinances:

NONE:

10. Second Reading & Public Hearing Ordinances:

Deputy Clerk Kramer read the affidavit of publication and the title of the proposed ordinance into the record. She stated that the notice was published in the *Two River Times* on June 12, 2025, in accordance with the law. The Ordinance Authorizes the Borough to Purchase Block 66, Lot 7.01 and Block 66, Lot 9.01 for Open Space Preservation Purposes. Mayor Tvrdik noted that this was the second reading of the Ordinance and opened the floor for public comment on this Ordinance only. There were no comments from the public. A motion to close this portion of the meeting was made by Councilman O'Brien and Councilman Deerin. A motion to adopt Ordinance #1111 - Authorizing the Borough to Purchase Block 66, Lot 7.01 and Block 66, Lot 9.01 for Open Space Preservation Purposes was made by Councilman Keeshen and seconded by Councilman Deerin. The motion carried. Mayor Tvrdik stated that they will be setting up a closing date with those two projects and then work with the county for the grant.

Ordinance #1111 Authorizing the Borough to Purchase Block 66, Lot 7.01 and Block 66, Lot 9.01 for Open Space Reservation Purposes:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman Bryan Keeshen
SECONDER:	Councilman William Deerin
AYES:	Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

11. Council Standing Committee Reports:

Councilman Deerin - Parks & Recreation:

Councilman Deerin reported that grant funding will benefit both Blackberry Bay and Trinity Park, with improvements that the community can look forward to in the near future. He provided an update on Gatta Park, noting that the field is being transitioned from soccer use to lacrosse. He advised parents to be mindful of extreme heat conditions, as the turf can reach temperatures as high as 118 degrees, and emphasized the importance of ensuring children stay properly hydrated.

Councilman Deerin also reminded the committee that Action Camp will begin next week, which is expected to result in increased traffic throughout the area. He encouraged residents to drive cautiously and remain alert, especially near parks and recreation facilities. He further noted that flyers for the annual Summer's End celebration will be distributed shortly. The event committee will be seeking donations, including funding for the fireworks display, which remains a significant cost. This year's event will include new features such as a cornhole tournament and the best tailgate competition.

Mayor Tvrdik added that the Shore Little League will be holding their softball tournament this Saturday at Blackberry Bay Park. It was also noted that the Army Band performance is scheduled for July 2nd.

Councilman Gallo - Public Works & Engineering : Mayor Tvrdik announced that Councilman Gallo would be arriving late or may not be in attendance and proceeded to give an update on his behalf.

The Mayor informed the governing body that work had begun on Comanche Drive to install a new water service throughout Blackberry Bay Park. He noted that although the roadway was recently repaved, it is now being excavated to accommodate this infrastructure upgrade. Mayor Tvrdik stated that he had received correspondence regarding the issue and directed the Recreation Coordinator to copy and paste his response, along with providing his cell phone number to the individual should they wish to discuss the matter further.

He assured the governing body that the administration continues to closely monitor utility companies and that there is a clear outlook and plan in place for the ongoing road program.

Mayor Tvrdik also addressed a recurring issue on Adrian Drive, where a water main had broken multiple times. He reported that he informed the water utility that a patch repair would not be accepted and that the street must be restored curb to curb. He reiterated that any streets currently under a moratorium will be fully repaved, while those outside of the moratorium will receive patch repairs. The Mayor concluded by explaining that the utility companies have their plans in place for work to be completed both during and after construction, and that all affected roads will ultimately be paved accordingly.

Councilman Keeshen - Public Safety:

Councilman Keeshen extended his thanks to Chief Grimes and the department for their efforts with the speed enforcement program, noting that it has been handled very

effectively. He reminded residents that this is a high-traffic time of year and encouraged everyone to drive cautiously, particularly with children out of school for the summer.

He also reminded the public to stay hydrated due to the increasingly warm weather. Councilman Keeshen acknowledged that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is actively monitoring weather conditions and other ongoing situations, and he expressed his appreciation to Buzz for those efforts.

In closing, he noted that the fire department has responded to several incidents in neighboring communities and expressed gratitude that the borough has not experienced similar events.

Councilman O'Brien - Finance & Administration: Councilman O'Brien stated that he had no report at this time, noting that his busiest period concluded with the recent adoption of the municipal budget.

Councilwoman Manna - Health and Human Services : Councilwoman Manna stated she has nothing new to report but is working on it for the future.

Councilwoman Cooper - Planning & Development:

Councilwoman Cooper thanked the PTO for inviting members of the governing body to participate as guest pitchers in the "With the Ball" Tournament. She extended her congratulations to the Maple Place School Class of 2025 and the Shore Regional High School Class of 2025 on their recent graduations.

She reported that the Planning Board has been active with a number of applications. At the most recent meeting, St. Barnabas presented revised plans that included changes to parking; the application was subsequently approved. Councilwoman Cooper also noted that Alison Hall is expected to return with proposed changes, and that Netflix will be appearing before the board again in July.

She concluded by stating that the paperwork for the tree ordinance is nearly complete and will soon be ready for processing.

12. Mayor Tvrdek's Report:

Mayor Tvrdek began by echoing congratulations to the Maple Place School Class of 2025 and the Shore Regional High School Class of 2025. He commended the Flag Day ceremony held at Blackberry Bay Park, which he described as a wonderful event. During the ceremony, the flagpole was dedicated in honor of Ward Coles. The Mayor noted the strong attendance, including residents, members of the governing body, and former Mayor Cavanagh. He extended his thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event.

The Mayor took a moment to explain the proper procedure for disposing of old or tattered American flags. He reminded residents that the Borough has a designated drop box located at Borough Hall.

Flags can be brought to the Clerk's Office, where staff will direct individuals to the appropriate location.

Mayor Tvrdik shared that resident Gary Hager, of Arnold Avenue, has offered to beautify Charles Park by planting vegetation similar to recent improvements made at Old Wharf Park. Mr. Hager will complete this work at his own expense and has committed to maintaining the plantings. Additionally, the Mayor noted that Celtic Concepts had offered ideas on landscaping that included planting bayberries, dappled willows, and switchgrass. He invited any suggestions from the public or council and offered to follow up by email.

The Mayor thanked Chief Grimes and the Police Department for their continued success with the speed enforcement initiative, noting the positive impact it has had on public safety. He also extended well-wishes to the community for a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday.

Mayor Tvrdik then informed the governing body of a request from resident Terry McGee, a 16-year Oceanport resident and veteran who sustained a C6 spinal cord injury during an overseas counterterrorism deployment. Mr. McGee is seeking guidance to conduct a charity-based swim event, which would include entry and exit points within the Borough. Potential access sites under consideration include the Blackberry Bay Boat Ramp and the area known as "Secret Beach." Due to factors such as water temperature and tides, the date and time for the event have not yet been finalized. The Mayor noted that coordination with emergency services and review by the Borough Attorney would be necessary, and he asked for input from the governing body.

Chief Grimes stated that Mr. McGee primarily needs access to the water and will be accompanied by swimmers and kayakers for safety. Should the event expand in scale in the future, it would be subject to a more comprehensive approval process. The Mayor stated he would follow up via email and inform both Mr. McGee and the State Police that the event has the full support of the governing body.

The Mayor also offered condolences to the Sommer family following the passing of a family member and longtime Oceanport resident. He shared that he spoke with the individual's father-in-law and expressed interest in having him serve on a committee dedicated to the beautification of Boy Scout Park and Sommers Park once upcoming work is completed.

Borough Administrator Phelps reported that the tennis and basketball courts at Blackberry Bay Park will be closed for repairs beginning Tuesday. In response, Mayor Tvrdik stated that the Borough plans to submit a grant application to Monmouth County for a series of proposed improvements to Blackberry Bay Park. These may include replacement of the deteriorating black fence, installation of LED lighting, and the addition of dugouts for the softball field, among other enhancements.

13. **Public Comments:** Mayor Tvrdik opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed following a motion by Councilman O'Brien, seconded by Councilman Keeshen.
14. **Adjourn to Executive Session:** Mayor Tvrdik announced that the governing body would adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters related to negotiations and attorney-client privilege concerning

ongoing litigation. He noted that no formal action would be taken following the session. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Deerin and seconded by Council President Cooper.

**Resolution #2025-191 - Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session, June 19, 2025-
Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege-
Affordable:**

RESULT:	ADOPTED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilman William Deerin
SECONDER:	Councilwoman Patricia Cooper
AYES:	Richard Gallo, Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

15. Return from Executive Session:

RESULT:	ADOPTED (6 TO 0)
MOVER:	Councilwoman Patricia Cooper
SECONDER:	Councilman Richard Gallo
AYES:	Richard Gallo, Bryan Keeshen, Michael O'Brien, Patricia Cooper, William Deerin, Kara Manna
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

16. Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Kramer
DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK