



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • JULY 18, 2024

Workshop

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building

7:00 PM

910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

I. **Call to Order & Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act:** Mayor Tvrdik called the meeting to order at 7PM. 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.

II. **Flag Salute, Statement to the Public:** Resident and First Aid Member Ed Ryan led attendees and members of the Council in the flag salute.

III. **Roll Call:**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Thomas Tvrdik	Mayor	Present	
William Deerin	Councilman	Absent	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Present	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Present	7:02 PM
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Present	
Keith Salnick	Councilman	Present	
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	

IV. **Oath of Office:**

Stephanie Kramer, Deputy Borough Clerk - Ms. Smith gave remarks on the addition of Stephanie Kramer to the Borough's team and then administered the Oath of Office with her husband and family members present.

V. **Public Comment on Action Items:** Mayor Tvrdik advised there were no action items for the Workshop meeting.

VI. **Action Items:** to follow in the Regular meeting.

VII. **Clerk's Report:** Ms. Smith reviewed the following items of old and new business:

Old Business:

1. Resolution authorizing Second Amendment to MOU with FMERA for Demolition of Bldgs 550, 551 – *discussed, moved forward*

New Business:

2. Resolution authorizing payment of BILL LIST 07-18-2024 – *discussed and moved forward*
3. Resolution authorizing Tax Sale Redemption #19-00011 – *discussed and moved forward*
4. Resolution authorizing Tax Sale Redemption #22-00003 – *discussed and moved forward*
5. Resolution authorizing Tax Sale Redemption #23-00003 – *discussed and moved forward*
6. Resolution awarding a contract for Turf Field Sports Consultant – *discussed and moved forward*
7. Resolution awarding Contract to Colliers Engineering & Design - 2024 Road Program – *discussed and moved forward*
8. Resolution awarding contract for Roofing Services to Garden State Roofing – *discussed and moved forward*
9. Resolution authorizing participation in the Purchasing Cooperative of America – *discussed and moved forward*
10. Resolution authorizing an MOU with FMERA for Engineering Services - Dredging Feasibility Study – *discussed, moved forward*
11. Resolution to amend 2024 budget for FMERA MOU Husky Brook Pond Dredging – *discussed and moved forward*
12. Resolution authorizing Change Order #1 to 600 Area Water Main Services_Vaughan Construction – *discussed, moved forward*
13. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Middletown for records management – *discussed and moved forward*
14. Resolution appointing Fire Police member - Danial Schmid – *discussed and moved forward*

Minutes:

- 15. Mayor & Council - Workshop - Apr 4, 2024 7:00 PM – *discussed and moved forward*
- 16. Mayor & Council - Workshop - Feb 2, 2023 7:00 PM – *discussed and moved forward*
- 17. Mayor & Council - Regular Meeting - Feb 16, 2023 7:00 PM – *discussed and moved forward*

- VIII. **Administrator's Report:** Ms. Phelps congratulated Ms. Kramer – she has stepped up and doing a great job. Ms. Phelps then reported on items including: update on the grant application for the 2024 Monmouth County Open Space Grant for Maria Gatta Park water, sewer and bathroom improvements seeking the maximum of \$500,000; notice of award for \$65,000 granted through the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant will be used to purchase turnout gear, air filler station and compressor; receipt of an email from individual extending his thanks to the Construction Department, acknowledging their efficiency, guidance and professionalism while working on his project; municipal court has a shortage of staff and has been receiving assistance from the Monmouth County vicinage to ensure upcoming court sessions for West Long Branch and Oceanport run smoothly. She took a moment to publicly thank the Monmouth County vicinage for their efforts on behalf of the Borough.

Ms. Phelps advised that the Monmouth County Freeholders have declared September 11, 2024 as a county holiday and encouraged Monmouth County governing bodies to follow suit. She recommended that the Council consider adopting same in support of the county and the many residents that were impacted by that tragic event. With no objections from Council, a resolution will be prepared for action at the August meeting.

- IX. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Tvrdek commented on the wonderful army band performance at Blackberry Bay Park – it gets increased attendance every year and encouraged residents to come out to next year's event, thanked the Historical Committee for their efforts hosting the event. Mayor Tvrdek also thanked Chief Kelly on a successful planning with many inter-agencies to support the landing of President Biden at the Fort Monmouth Parade grounds – outstanding job with the limited amount of time to prepare. He also thanked the fire department, OEM, first aid squad who worked hand-in-hand with surrounding towns as well as Monmouth County Sheriff Golden, the State Police, County road department and the County's CERT team. Many words of praise were received from the Secret Service Special Agent in Charge for the great job. He added light heartedly that a bill was sent to the White House for the overtime incurred by the police department.

Mayor Tvrdek discussed with the Council a request from the developer for the property across the street, presently approved for completed Phase I commissary, baseline, ice cream factory and Birdsmouth. Phase II encompasses 3 buildings for flex space and some warehouse spacing. Mr. Denholtz approached the Mayor concerning a potential change in use for the site to allow for a gun range – a non-permitted use under the Fort Monmouth Reuse Plan. He would like to schedule further discussion at the next workshop meeting after the developer has provided greater details, facts, safety measures etc. He asked Council to review and advise if it was a hard no, Mr. Denholtz would be apprised that the Borough does not have any interest. The workshop discussion would be opened to the public for their comments as well. Council members discussed with each member expressing openness for the discussion and public feedback. With no objections, the topic will be put on the August workshop for discussion. Should the Borough decide not to oppose, the next step would be to seek a plan amendment with FMERA.

Mayor Tvrdek also extended thanks to Lisa Inglis with Shore Regional High School for arranging transportation for the seniors to the army band.

Mayor Tvrdek thanked Buzz Baldanza, OEM Coordinator, for their efforts during the Beacon of Life situation with loss of power/no air conditioning; many were transported to the hospital, others were provided with hydration until the building owner could address the issue. He further thanked the Monmouth County CERT team, Eatontown Fire Department, Oceanport Fire Department, West Long Branch, Fair Haven and Oceanport EMS, OEM members Ron Stubbington, Pat Hickey, Rich Barnes and West Long Branch Councilman Steve Cioffi who assisted in assuring the residents remained safe, stayed cool and got through the heat wave.

Mayor Tvrdek next addressed the recent issue of vandalism going around in the Borough's parks using e-bikes, ripping up turf at Gatta Park, the safety material at Charles Park, drawings of racial slurs, pornographic material on parks, tennis courts and signs. The Police are on the matter and the public has been warned that this will not be tolerated. Cameras will be installed in various locations such as the outside doors of the Blackberry Bay Pavilion where the bathrooms have been vandalized. Great effort goes into establishing these facilities. He also advised that the Haskell Invitational was happening this coming weekend and advised residents to make alternative arrangements and avoid the area unless attending.

Mayor Tvrdek advised of upcoming events including the Oceanport Paddle Club is holding a charity event this Saturday to raise funds for less fortunate families, large soccer tournament at Maria Gatta Park.

He concluded his reporting wishing Buddy Brocklebank a very happy birthday!

- X. **Public Comment:** Mayor Tvrdik opened the meeting to comments from the public. As there was no one else from the public, the public comments was closed on a motion by Councilman O'Brien, seconded by Councilman Salnick.
- XI. **Adjourn to Executive Session:** At 7:26 PM Councilman Gallo made a motion to adopt the resolution to enter Executive Session which was seconded by Councilman O'Brien and received the following roll call.

#2024-178 Resolution authorizing an Executive Session, July 18, 2024

 X N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(8) *Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship - Municipal Court Staffing*

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

- XII. **Return from Executive Session:** At 7:44 PM, the Regular Meeting was re-opened on a motion by Councilman O'Brien, seconded by Councilman Salnick..
- XIII. **Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM on a motion by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Salnick and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK