

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – JANUARY 18, 2022
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 6:30PM.

Council Vice President Sackett introduced Jennifer Sackett, a Junior Girl Scout, who held the flag and led those present in the flag salute.

Council Vice President Sackett called for a moment of silence to remember the services and sacrifices of the armed service members who protect our Nation and the first responders who protect our neighborhoods. He added two people in the community who recently passed; Alfred W. Knoth, Al Knoth's father, and Evelyn Karpack, Billy Karpack's mother.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

Present: Councilman Brookes, Councilwoman Brookes, Councilman Friedlander, Councilman Kritz, Councilwoman Noon, Councilman Quinn, Councilman Salberg, and Vice President Sackett.

Present from Administration: Acting Mayor Joe Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Attorney Perrone, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. Bryan Coward, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Mr. David Dyer, Chief Martin McParland, Mr. Al Knoth, and Mr. Jeffrey Heintzelman.

Vice President Sackett stated, "Please be advised that all electronic/remote meetings of the Township Council held on Webex are recorded. Full and complete information concerning public attendance at all Webex meetings is published on the Township website. All members of the public will be provided the opportunity to speak. Please be further advised that during any "public hearing" or "open to the public" sections of the meeting, the Township Clerk will send an "unmute request" to each member of the public and ask if they wish to speak. Once the Township Clerk has sent the unmute request: If you are attending the meeting by telephone, you will be prompted to press *6 to unmute yourself and if you are attending the meeting using your computer, you will receive a pop-up requesting that you unmute yourself. As per Rockaway Township Code 2-5.14, any person desiring to address the Council shall first seek recognition by the presiding officer; and upon recognition by the chair, the person shall give their name and address for the record. Unless further time is granted by the Council, they shall limit their statement to five minutes. Statements shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. A Councilman shall not direct any question to a speaker addressing the Council, except through the presiding officer. In addition to speaking on the record during Council Meetings, members of the public may submit questions and comments to the Council by emailing questions@rockawaytownship.org by the end of the "Open to the Public" session."

Vice President Sackett stated, "Notice of this meeting was sent to the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway, on January 11, 2022. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township."

Vice President Sackett stated that there will be a limit of three minutes for comment during the public portion of the meeting, and a limit of two minutes for public comment on any ordinances.

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

O-22-01 AMENDING CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATIVE CODE), ARTICLE 3, SECTION 2-5.14 (ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-22-01.

No members of the public commented.

Motion was made by Councilman Friedlander, seconded by Councilman Salberg, to close the public hearing.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

No members of Council commented.

Roll call was taken to adopt Ordinance O-22-01.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

O-22-02 AMENDING CHAPTER 7 (TRAFFIC) ARTICLE 6 (PARKING), SECTION 7-6.2 (PARKING PROHIBITED DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion was made by Councilman Friedlander, seconded by Councilwoman Noon, to adopt Ordinance O-22-02.

No members of the public commented.

Motion was made to close the public hearing. Affirmation by show of hands.

No members of Council commented.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

O-22-03 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS AND NON-CONTRACTURAL EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon, to adopt Ordinance O-22-03.

No members of the public commented.

Motion was made to close the public hearing. Affirmation by show of hands.

No members of Council commented.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

O-22-04 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS AND CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Kritz, to adopt Ordinance O-22-04.

No members of the public commented.

Motion was made to close the public hearing. Affirmation by show of hands.

No members of Council commented.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Jim Warters, address not provided. Mr. Warters thanked former Mayor Puzio wished Acting Mayor Jackson the best of luck.

Michael Ilardi, 19 North Brookside Drive. Mr. Ilardi stated that he has brought up blind spots in White Meadow Lake several times in past. He said that one at the corner of North Brookside Drive and Algonquin where a bush adds to the problem and the other is at Old Middletown and West Lake Shore Drive. He said that the Township Engineer had come to look six weeks ago and he's sure she can comment on these needing to be addressed. He ended by stating that he wants meetings to return to in-person and that they should start later in order to accommodate people getting home from work.

Patricia Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive. Ms. Degnan wished Council a happy and healthy new year and thanked the former Mayor for his service.

Patrick Egan, 59 Lenox Road. Mr. Egan congratulated former Mayor Puzio, thanked the Council, and said he is looking forward to great things.

William Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive. Mr. Degnan thanked the Council for working so hard on Peterson Field, and he said that it is really great to see the town working on new things for the future.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. R-22-01 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OR THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS RESPECTING CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT MADE TO THE TOWNSHIP MAY BE FORGIVEN

B. R-22-29 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH JOHNSON & JOHNSON, MCKESSON, CARDINAL HEALTH, AND AMERISOURCEBERGEN TO RESOLVE CLAIMS INVOLVING THEIR ROLES IN THE COUNTRY'S OPIOID CRISIS

Motion was made by Councilman Salberg, seconded by Councilman Brookes, to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes:

Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS:

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL:

Citizen's Recreation Committee – 1 year term ending 12/31/2022:

John Lombardo

Thomas J. Warner

Motion was made by Councilman Friedlander, seconded by Councilman Kritz, to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Citizen's Recreation Committee.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (CM Brookes, CW Brookes, CM Friedlander, CM Kritz, CW Noon, CM Salberg, CM Quinn, VP Sackett)

Nah Votes:

Motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Brookes commended the Roads Department for their work during the last storm. He said that he is glad the kids are back in school. He ended by stating that he looks forward to spring and the work being done at Peterson.

Councilman Kritz seconded the statement about the Roads Department work. He also gave kudos to the Board of Education for balancing the issues that we're seeing and asked for people to be patient, stating that these decisions are being made for a reason. He thanked former Mayor Puzio and said it was a pleasure to serve with him. He added that you won't find many with his passion for the town. He wished Acting Mayor Jackson good luck.

Councilman Quinn said that the Planning Board reorganized, and gave Commons Way an approval for a monument sign at the Green Pond Road entrance to Commons Way. He reported that the Recreation Committee had their reorg meeting and that assignments will be made at the next meeting. He said that the Recreation Committee has asked him to ask everyone to please consider coaching as there is a dire need for help and it's a great way to spend time with kids. He noted that the DPW does a great job. He wished former Mayor Puzio great success in the future, and he's looking forward to working with this Council.

Councilwoman Brookes stated that tomorrow is the Board of Education meeting, and it can be attended via zoom or in-person and to see the website for information. She said that the DPW does an excellent job. She encouraged people to attend Council meetings and pointed out that for those who just want to view meetings and not comment, they can watch the livestream on YouTube.

Councilwoman Noon stated that the DPW does an excellent job but warned all to be careful of black ice and to stay safe. She looks forward to 2022 and thanked former Mayor Puzio.

Councilman Friedlander reported that he has no committee reports because everyone starts tomorrow and finishes next week so he'll have more at the next meeting. He thanked Administration for reaching out to Traffic for taking care of some speeding issues at the Lake. He noted that the DPW did a great job. He ended by noting that he'll miss former Mayor Puzio and wished him good luck.

Councilman Salberg thanked the DPW. He urged all to stay safe, noting that there is another cold, icy weekend ahead. He thanked the former mayor and wished Acting Mayor Jackson good luck. He thanked Vice President Sackett for recognizing Evelyn Karpack, noting that for those of us up in Hibernia, she was an absolute fixture and a part of daily life. He reported that the County Commissioners have no news on their 2022 budget but they did announce a five year 67 million dollar capital spending plan which includes money for roads, bridges, new voting machines for the upcoming primary, IT upgrades, park system upgrades; all which can be found on their website. He urged all to stay safe, noted Omicron is real and is 800,000 a day being hospitalized across the country, and to be smart.

Vice President Sackett asked Administration to follow up on what Mr. Ilardi said about the two blind spots in White Meadow Lake. He commented on Omicron, and said definitely we want to put safety first, adding that hopefully we'll be back soon but he doesn't know when. He said DPW did a great job and that residents should check on elderly neighbors and watch out for black ice. He said that former Mayor Puzio did a great job no matter what he tackled.

Acting Mayor Jackson gave condolences to Al for losing his father and to Billy Karpack on his mother's loss. He recognized former Mayor Puzio's work and family. He ended by stating that he will be meeting with department heads to be apprised of any projects and to make sure nothing is missed.

Attorney Perrone wished Acting Mayor Jackson good luck in his new position and thanked former Mayor Puzio, noting that it was one of the greatest experiences that he's had as an attorney working with him.

Mr. Coward stated he has no report and that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Ferrante reported she is looking forward to working with everyone in 2022 and that there is currently a lull before the summer construction season. She said that they are holding a pre-construction meeting this week for turf field.

Mr. Dyer said that he is looking forward to 2022, winter sports are in full swing with COVID giving coaches and players a tough go, but they're making the best of it. He continued that registration for spring sports is up on all the websites.

Mr. Heintzelman reported that the Fire Department responded to 440 calls and EMS to 489 calls in 2021. He said congratulations to the DPW for their snow removal efforts, and noted that the Fire Department is gearing up for their ice rescue training. He noted that there were large fires in Passaic and Parsippany for which Rockaway Township provided support. He noted that Fire Prevention issued 594 smoke certificates and conducted 577 business inspections.

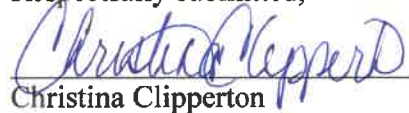
Ms. Palmieri stated that the auditors will be here next week and plan to be finished by the beginning of February. She said that the Tax Collector has completed her year-end reports and that there was a collection rate of 98%, slightly down from last year but still an excellent percentage of collection. She said that the Tax Assessor is working on year-end reports and she expects to have the net valuation taxable by the end of the month. She ended by noting that the 2022 budget document will go to the Mayor and then Council shortly and that she looks forward to working with all.

Chief McParland wished all on Council good luck. He reported that there are five new officers who are undergoing training. He reported that this past weekend with the hostage event at a Texas synagogue, his department took measures locally even with no credible threats in New Jersey. He said that with the recent winter storm, there were some minor motor vehicle accidents and several assists to stranded motorists, but there were no serious injuries in the Township. He said that the Rockaway Township Challenger PAL Basketball occurs every Saturday morning at Stonybrook Gym and everyone is encouraged to participate or attend. He ended by wishing former Mayor Puzio well.

Mr. Knoth thanked everyone for their kind words regarding the death of his father. He stated that the DPW did a terrific job with the snow/ice storm and noted that they put in much time up front getting everything ready to keep people safe. He said that the water department is actively updating and starting new projects for the water system to stay in compliance, and working on maintenance for the spring. He stated that the recycling vendor was down for four days which put us behind but starting tomorrow we'll be taking care of the public. Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 7:27PM. **There was general consensus.**

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for February 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Clipperton
Municipal Clerk

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
D. Brookes			X			
R. Brookes			X			
E. Friedlander		X	X			
H. Kritz			X			
M. Noon			X			
A. Salberg			X			
J. Quinn	X		X			
J. Sackett			X			