

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –FEBRUARY 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 6:30PM.

Council Vice President Sackett requested that Matthew Sackett hold 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, Charles Dietrich and Richard Miniter. Councilman Quinn spoke regarding Charlie.

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, and Ms. Allison Ferrante.

Council 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 February 1, 2022. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township.”

Council 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 three 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.”

ELECTION OF MAYOR BY COUNCIL:

Attorney Iaciofano outlined the protocol for the election of Mayor by Council.

Nominees submitted by Republican County Committee:

- A. Joe Jackson
- B. Don Reddin
- C. Joe McMahan

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Brookes, to appoint Joe Jackson as Mayor.

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.

There was a recess at 6:37 PM. Meeting resumed at 6:40 PM.

SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR:

Ms. Clipperton swore in the Mayor with his wife, Susanne, present. Mayor Jackson thanked everyone for their support, including his wife, three children, and former Mayor Puzio.

Council Vice President Sackett asked Attorney Iaciofano to speak. Attorney Iaciofano advised Council that there is now a vacancy on Council and that the Township has thirty days to fill the seat. The Republican County Committee will make a nomination.

Council Vice President Sackett asked for recognition of dignitaries.

Christian Barranco, State Assemblyman, stated that he, Assemblyman Webber, and Senator Pennacchio had a meeting with Mayor Jackson to give their support to him and Council. He said that he was a Councilman in the past and that he intends to be very available to everyone and looks forward to working with them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 3, 2022 – Reorganization Meeting

January 18, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve the January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting and January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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, 48 Seneca Ave. Mr. Warters said congratulations to Mayor Jackson.

Lili Sweet, 9 Oakland Ave. Ms. Sweet said congratulations to Mayor Jackson.

Ryan Magee. Mr. Magee said congratulations to Mayor Jackson.

ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:

O-22-05 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF SANITARY SEWER AND WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Kritz, to introduce Ordinance O-22-05.

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-22-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 ENTITLED "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY CREATING A NEW SECTION 54-30.70 ENTITLED "RMF-3 MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT"

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-22-06.

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-22-07 ORDINANCE TO AMEND 1989 DEED OF UTILITY AND ACCESS EASEMENT AND TO AMEND 1989 DEED OF AN ACCESS EASEMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg, to introduce Ordinance O-22-07.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-22-30 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#21-001 AGAINST BLOCK 10301 LOT 20 KNOWN AS RT 46.

R-22-31 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCATION AND OPERATION OF A CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAILER BY HOLISTIC RE-LEAF LLC WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

R-22-32 AMENDING RESOLUTION R-22-18 BY ADDING TO THAT RESOLUTION'S LIST OF AUTHORIZED VENDORS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE USE OF STATE, COUNTY AND REGIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

R-22-33 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A CERTAIN SOIL DISTURBANCE PERMIT FOR THE SARKISSIAN RESIDENCE WITH RESPECT TO REAL PROPERTY DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY AS BLOCK 21301, LOT 83 AND BEING MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 42 SHAWNEE AVENUE

Motion was made by Councilman Kritz, seconded by Councilman Quinn, 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.

Councilman Brookes asked about R-22-31 and whether it should read Mount Hope Road or Mount Hope Ave. Ms. Ferrante answered that it should read Mount Hope Ave. Ms. Clipperton stated that she will fix this error.

APPOINTMENTS:

Junior Firefighters:

Jack Brennan

Brian Patoir

Motion was made by Councilman Kritz, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to appoint Jack Brennan and Brian Patoir as Junior Firefighters.

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.

Council Vice President Sackett said congratulations and thanked the two for their service.

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Quinn reported that he attended the Citizens' Recreation Committee meeting and that the spring sports teams will have to relocate because fields at Peterson Field are getting ready for turf. He said that he attended the Planning Board meeting and that other than some minor changes made to some business properties there is nothing to report.

Councilman Salberg stated that there is nothing to report from the Board of Commissioners.

Councilwoman Noon stated that she had nothing to report and wished Mayor Jackson congratulations.

Councilman Kritz congratulated Mayor Jackson and noted that he has their support and his appointment is well deserved. He reported that last week he met with Ms. Reilly's third grade class at KDM Elementary School that was covering local government. He thanked her for asking him to come in for the third year in a row. He stated that he is looking forward to the work at Peterson Field. He ended by noting that softball and lacrosse seasons are here and he emphasized that these are volunteer driven.

Councilman Friedlander reported that last month was quiet for committees. He gave kudos to Administration, specifically Ms. Seger and Mr. Dyer for following up with traffic concerns in White Meadow Lake. He thanked engineering and Ms. Ferrante for following up on all the Township's water areas, and noted that Princeton Hydro has completed sampling and will be producing a report hopefully in the Spring. He said there were heating concerns and a tank repair at the Hibernia library. He thanked the volunteer Fire Departments for their work on Sunday at the beach where they were doing ice training. He said that there were nine new people training for this service and that we have an unbelievable fire service in this town.

Councilwoman Brookes congratulated Mayor Jackson and the Junior Firefighters. She reported that the Board of Education is holding a meeting on 2/16 and that they started their Superintendent search and are looking for community input via a survey on their website. She ended by noting that it's been fun to see all the kids skating and ice fishing.

Councilman Brookes said congratulations to Mayor Jackson. He wanted to bring up the issue of losing water for the fifth time in about a year on Richard Mine Road. He said that hopefully someone from Administration will address this in tonight's meeting. He is looking forward to the start of Peterson Field and he has some questions in with Administration on this. He stated that he is looking forward to a Morris Knolls Eagles hockey game tomorrow night. He said that baseball signups are open for the fall season and he is getting asked about the status of the fields.

Council Vice President Sackett also asked for an update regarding the Richard Mine Road issue. He said that everyone is excited about the Peterson Field improvements and asked that all are patient as the work will continue through November. He reported that he and Mayor Jackson spoke about bringing back Rockaway Township Day this summer. He ended by echoing what other said, volunteers are needed in recreation sports.

Mayor Jackson spoke about his coaching experience, encouraging everyone to do it. He said that they have meetings scheduled with Administration and Recreation for Rockaway Township Day. He said that tomorrow night Morris Hills wrestling is competing for the State Sectional Championship. He reported on the water main at Mount Hope Road and that there was an issue with water pressure and this is being addressed quickly as we know how inconvenient it is for the citizens. He wrapped up by saying there is much on Council's agenda with Peterson and all the other things to do to make the town better and he's looking forward to working with everyone.

Attorney Iacofano reported that he and Attorney Perrone are continuing to work on the Puzio and Jackson litigation that was initiated by Mr. Kelley. He stated that there were two Government Records Council (GRC) complaints filed by Mr. Kelley at the start of the year. He said that for an upcoming meeting, he will ask for a closed session to give Council an update on these matters.

Ms. Seger congratulated Mayor Jackson and stated that the staff is ready to work with him. She reported that they are well aware of the Richard Mine Road issue and had gone out for quotes that are coming back this week. She noted that it will take a bit longer because a study needs to be conducted and in the meantime the Water team worked very hard in getting there quickly to address the problem.

Ms. Ferrante gave a report on Peterson Field, stating that they are pushing forward and the contractor has been giving them materials submittals so that they can get ahead of shortages and lag times to avoid delays. She stated that tree removal then demolition activities will take place first.

Mayor Jackson stated that there is a blueprint posted of P I and P II on the Facebook page.

Ms. Palmieri stated that she has no report and congratulated Mayor Jackson.

Mr. Coward stated that he has no report and congratulated Mayor Jackson.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 7:14 PM. **There was general consensus.**

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for February 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Clipperton

Municipal Clerk

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