

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –MARCH 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Council President Kritz led those present in the flag salute.

Council President Kritz 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.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

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

Present from Administration: Mayor Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. Bryan Coward, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, and Ms. Allison Ferrante.

Council President Kritz stated, “Notice of this meeting was sent to the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway, on March 2, 2022. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township.”

Council President Kritz 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 COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE:

- A. Raymond Tahan
- B. Pawel Wojtowicz
- C. James Del Greco

Motion was made by Councilman Salberg, seconded by Councilman Quinn, to elect Pawel Wojtowicz as Council Member At-Large.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg, to close the nominations.

Roll call was taken to close nominations.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Roll call was taken to elect Pawel Wojtowicz as Council Member At-Large.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Eight yes votes, motion carries.

SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE:

Councilman Wojtowicz thanked all for their unanimous vote and he said he can't wait to meet everyone and work for the betterment of Rockaway Township.

Ms. Clipperton was asked to add Councilman Wojtowicz as a panelist rather than an attendee.

Council President Kritz asked Attorney Iacofano what the procedure is if Councilman Wojtowicz can't get back into the meeting and a five minute recess was recommended. However, it was determined that he couldn't be added a panelist and instead the meeting proceeded with Councilman Wojtowicz left unmuted as an attendee.

Ms. Clipperton swore in Councilman Wojtowicz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Noon, to approve the February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0
Abstentions: 1 (P. Wojtowicz)
Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Eight yes votes, one abstention, motion carries.

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

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

Public hearing/Council discussion. None.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to adopt Ordinance O-22-05.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Nine yes votes, motion carries.

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

Public hearing/Council discussion. None.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-22-07.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Nine yes votes, motion carries.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Michael Ilardi, 19 N. Brookside Drive. Mr. Ilardi thanked Allison Ferrante for notifying homeowners regarding the issues at Algonquin and N Brookside Dr. and Old Middletown and W Lakeshore Dr. He said that both have started trimming bushes and he also looks forward to a stop lines at Algonquin. He said that he mentioned at the last meeting the drainage issues on Lakeview Court and asked if a storm drain could be put in as there is concern about runoff going into the lake. He commented on the street sweeper, asking it to focus on streets surrounding the lake first. He noted that storm drains are full of debris and noted that the one at Beach 2 is the biggest concern and needs to be cleaned regularly. He reported that the White Meadow Lake

blood drive is on March 15 from 1 to 7 PM and asked the Township to publish this. He asked for an update on the Bowlbyville sewer line. Mayor Jackson asked for the blood drive flyer and said that he will make sure it gets posted on the Township's Facebook page.

Patricia Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive. Ms. Degnan thanked the water department for addressing an issue she had in a timely manner.

William Degnan, 88 Valley View Drive. Mr. Degnan asked if there has been discussion about upgrades at Peterson.

ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:

O-22-08 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 Salberg, to introduce Ordinance O-22-08.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Nine yes votes, motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-22-36 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELATION AND REFUND OF 2020, 2021 & 2022 TAXES ON A CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS: 533 MT HOPE RD., BLOCK 20104 LOT 8 WHERE THE OWNER QUALIFIES FOR A 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION

R-22-37 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AMENDED QUALIFIED MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FOX HILLS AT ROCKAWAY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., WHICH AMENDMENT SHALL TERMINATE ON DECEMBER 31, 2025

R-22-38 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

R-22-39 RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN PROFESSIONAL HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM MOTT MACDONALD IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$215,750.00

R-22-40 AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT WITH NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES' SHORT TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

R-22-41 RESOLUTION AMENDING TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY'S PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

R-22-42 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY AND THE ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-10 (b)

R-22-43 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A CERTAIN SOIL DISTURBANCE PERMIT FOR THE SHAH RESIDENCE WITH RESPECT TO REAL PROPERTY DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY AS BLOCK 21301, LOT 84 AND BEING MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 40 SHAWNEE AVENUE

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Nine yes votes, motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS:

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT:

Library Board of Trustees:

Bronwyn Springer

Mayor's appointment. No vote by Council.

Councilman Friedlander welcomed Ms. Springer to the Board and spoke about her background.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT FROM COUNCIL:

Citizen's Recreation Committee:

Doug Bratton

Yoginder Gupta

Motion was made by Council Vice President Sackett, seconded by Councilman Quinn, to appoint Doug Bratton and Yoginder Gupta to the Citizen's Recreation Committee.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, D. Brookes, M. Noon, A. Salberg, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

The results of the vote were announced. Nine yes votes, motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Salberg congratulated Pawel Wojtowicz. He stated that it there was a rough evening due to last night's storms and he thanked the Township employees and utility workers that are working to get things back on line. He reported that the Board of Commissioners adopted two resolutions for funds; one for Rockaway Township to get \$11,000 to provide prevention and education services on alcohol and drug abuse, and two for the Township to get \$15,000 for the Senior Center. He ended by asking people to keep the people of Ukraine in their thoughts and prayers and to please donate if possible.

Councilman Brookes gave kudos to Council and staff for a very good budget meeting. He noted that the Varsity Morris Hills team fell just short of winning the State championship but he congratulated the JV team and Rockaway minors peewee team for winning their championships. He ended by asking all to be alert due to the weather tomorrow.

Councilman Quinn wished all women a happy International Women's Day. He commented on P.F. Chang's opening, saying that it was nice to see a new restaurant and people coming to the mall. He reported on the Planning Board and Citizen's Recreation Committee meetings. He said that he is looking forward to an update on improvements at Peterson. He noted that everyone worked hard on the budget, and ended by welcoming Pawel.

Councilman Friedlander reported that there was a Historical Society meeting last night that was well attended about the importance of rice in Colonial America. He said that the next meeting is on April 4 and the topic is Life of the Metal Detector. He reminded people that on Thursday, May 19 is the Concert for a Cause at the Rockaway River Barn from 11 AM to 11 PM, with 20% of proceeds going to the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance. He said that the Hibernia branch of the library is having a Spring Festival on April 24. He ended by noting that the Board of Assessment Commissioners will be meeting on March 30.

Councilwoman Noon welcomed Pawel. She reported that she attended P.F.Chang's opening, which was great. She ended by noting that she regretted missing the Historical Society's meeting with the rain keeping her away.

Councilwoman Brookes thanked Council and Administration for a productive budget session. She also thanked Councilman Salberg and Council President Kritz for attending the informal stakeholder meeting that the Board had invited them to. She reported that all districts have a two hour delayed opening tomorrow. She reported that through the end of the month there is a Copeland student art exhibit at the municipal building and to stop over if you have the opportunity.

Councilman Wojtowicz thanked everyone for their support and said that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Council Vice President Sackett welcomed the new members to the Citizen's Recreation Committee and said that they will definitely work well with the group. He reported on the P.F. Chang's opening, stating that it is a great place with great food and said to make a reservation

and support new business. He noted three Rockaway Township teams made the basketball travel championships with the seventh grade team winning their championship, noting that the venue was packed and the Morris Hills booster raised \$630. He said that it was a great few days for hockey and that he is looking forward to spring sports, and ended by asking all to be careful tomorrow.

Council President Kritz said thanks to all for a very productive budget meeting. He thanked all the department heads for making the time on Saturday to come, noting that it took much work by all and was a collaborative meeting. He stated that Council will return to in-person meetings beginning in April, and they will start at 7 PM. He reiterated that there is a delayed opening tomorrow and to be safe. He reported on the grand opening at P.F. Chang's, saying that it created 120 new jobs in the mall. He said that the Recreation basketball has their season end's tournament this weekend. He said that the hockey game at the arena was really exciting for the kids.

Mayor Jackson reported that Allison Ferrante will give an update on Peterson. He said that there will be meetings over the next few weeks regarding Peterson and all of Rec more holistically as they are such a big part of the Township, including long term improvements at the Senior Center. He said that he sent Council President Kritz an email as Al Knoth is planning to set up a tour of the DPW facilities for Council, and he tied this into the recent budget meeting as this way they could see what expenditures go towards. He also said that he and the Police Chief had a meeting with the property manager at Pondview to discuss security needs, noting that they're half full unit-wise. He reported that it has been a busy two weeks, thanking Lisa Palmieri and Pat Seger along with all the department heads for the productive budget meeting, noting that it was a monumental task.

Ms. Ferrante stated that there is not much of an update although the contractor has remobilized and that trees are down and perimeter fencing is going up. She reminded people of the importance of staying away from this active construction site.

Ms. Palmieri reported that we planned to introduce the budget at the next Council meeting on March 22 and she plans to put on two bond ordinances that include all the projects discussed at the budget meeting. She said that April 28 is the scheduled adoption date but noted that the State is reviewing the budget this year so that date is not firm.

Mr. Coward stated that he had no report.

Ms. Seger welcomed Councilman Wojtowicz and invited him to town hall as she has some welcome material. She thanked all regarding the budget.

Attorney Iacofano congratulated Councilman Wojtowicz. He stated that we can offer an orientation to review the laws and responsibilities involved and that Pat would be happy to set up an appointment. He confirmed that as Councilman Friedlander stated, the BOAC meeting for the Bowlbyville sewer project is tentatively set for March 30 and gave much thanks to Christina Clipperton, Allison Ferrante, and the committee chair, Jim Wartens. He ended by noting that at the first in-person meeting there will be a legal status report which has a closed session requirement.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Council Vice President Sackett, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 7:57 PM. There was general consensus.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Clipperton Deputy
 Christina Clipperton Clerk
 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			
P. Wojtowicz			X			
J. Sackett			X			
H. Kritz			X			