

**ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –APRIL 12, 2022
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 7:00 PM.

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, Councilwoman Noon, Councilwoman Brookes, Councilman Wojtowicz, Council Vice President Sackett, and Council President Kritz.

Absent: Councilman Brookes, Councilman Salberg

Present from Administration: Mayor Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. Bryan Coward, Mr. Jeffrey Heintzelman and Chief Martin McParland.

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 April 6, 2022. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Council Vice President Sackett, to approve the March 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BY MAYOR JOE JACKSON

Mayor Jackson stated that he wanted to recognize the Rockaway Township Volunteer Fire Department as there were two substantial fires since the last Council meeting. He read a letter of thanks from the Rustic Ridge community. He also thanked the Police and Health Departments.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. Bryan Coward presented the proclamation to all present. He then explained to the residents that they can now subscribe on the Township’s website to receive notifications alerting them to newly available volunteer opportunities.

CLOSED SESSION:

R-22-61 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, ET SEQ.) TO DISCUSS A CONTRACT NEGOTIATION, PERSONNEL MATTERS AND ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve resolution R-22-61 and enter into Closed Session at 7:07 PM.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

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

Motion was made by Council President Kritz, seconded by Councilwoman Noon, to end the Closed Session at 7:44 PM.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Diane Grohowski, 354 Richard Mine Rd. Ms. Grohowski requested that a speed bump be constructed on Richard Mine Rd. in the area of the Irish American Club between 347 and 351 Richard Mine Rd. She stated that due to excessive speeding, there have been several accidents in the area of her home. She stated that the speeding is hazardous in the residential area, there are no sidewalks in the area and residents walk their dogs and to the Circle K Gas Station in the area.

Michael Ilardi, 19 N Brookside Dr. Mr. Ilardi questioned if it were necessary to hold a Closed Session at the start of the Council Meeting and to make the residents wait for the meeting to proceed. He also inquired about whether the Township was considering constructing a dog park. He explained that the White Meadow Lake Community had considered it, but have been unable to identify a suitable lot within the community.

Dominick Nicastro, 9 Lenox Rd. Mr. Nicastro stated that he had never received the letter that was mailed by the Water Department, concerning well contamination. He asked for a status of

the water quality. He also inquired whether the Township would be considering the construction of bocce ball courts at Peterson field.

Judi Rodaman, 207 Jackson Ave. Ms. Rodaman expressed concern regarding speeding on Jackson Ave. She is concerned for the safety of the residents living in that neighborhood. She also complained of the noise created by the vehicles with altered mufflers in the area.

Emily Kullmann, 18 Lakeshore Dr. Ms. Kullmann stated that other municipalities do not allow political signs on public property. She asked if there is any way to prohibit politicians from doing so in Rockaway Township.

Daniel Joy, 467 Mt. Hope Rd. Mr. Joy stated that he had heard rumor that a potential candidate running for Mayor, had mentioned the intention of taking funds away from senior services. He expressed that he hoped that the Township had no plans to do so.

Joe Grosch, 357 Richard Mine Rd. Mr. Grosch echoed Ms. Grohowski's sentiments about the speeding on Richard Mine Rd., and stated that he would also like to see a speed bump constructed.

ORDINANCE TO ADOPT:

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 Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to adopt Ordinance O-22-08.

Jim Harmke, 17 Heather Ct. Mr. Harmke is concerned that the development proposed with this ordinance will impact the value of existing homes in the surrounding area. He is also concerned to potential damage due to drainage issues that would be created by the construction of the proposed development.

Mark Krukar, 6 Heather Ct. Mr. Krukar asked that the Council votes no to adopting this ordinance. He expressed concern regarding increased traffic due to the development and the impact that it would have on the existing streets. He stated that the development would also have an impact on schools, emergency services and the wildlife.

Gopal Chawla, 142 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Mr. Chawla stated that the subject property is zoned R-20, which is single family residential. He stated that there is no justification for bringing low income or high-density housing into the area.

Daniel Joy, 467 Mt. Hope Rd. Mr. Joy stated that while he does not live in the area, he does attend church there. He agrees that the development would have a negative impact on the community.

Andy Smith, 124 Mountain Rd. Mr. Smith believes that this development isn't well thought out, as it won't meet the State's affordable housing requirements and will negatively impact the community and traffic.

Jane File, 165 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Ms. File explained that she is here on behalf of her mother, who is a long time resident of the Township. She stated that her mother is concerned about the increased traffic, speeding and environmental impacts that this development would have.

Randy Graham, 8 Moore St. Mr. Graham expressed that he is against this ordinance.

Yang Yang Ji, 1 Irwin Pl. Mr. Ji requested that the Council vote no to adopting this ordinance.

There was no Council discussion.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 0

Nah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

The results of the vote were announced. Seven no votes, motion fails.

**PUBLIC HEARING REFERENCE TO THE PARTIAL INTERIOR RESTORATION AND MEP UPGRADES OF THE FORD-FAESCH MANOR HOUSE:
R-22-63 RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRE-QUALIFICATION REGULATIONS FOR BIDDERS REGARDING THE PARTIAL INTERIOR RESTORATION AND MEP UPGRADES OF THE FORD-FAESCH MANOR HOUSE**

Motion was made by Vice-President Sackett, seconded by Councilwoman Noon, to approve Resolution R-22-63.

There was no discussion amongst the Council and no one from the public wished to speak.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-22-57 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST PROGRAM FOR A 2022 GRANT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FORD-FAESCH MANOR HOUSE C.1772 OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

R-22-58 2022 HOMESTEAD CREDIT REFUND BLOCK 11301.06 LOT 1.13 6113 VETERANS DRIVE

R-22-59 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#21-008 AGAINST BLOCK 30901 LOT 15 KNOWN AS 125 DECKER RD.

R-22-60 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#20-015 AGAINST BLOCK 40701 LOT 86 KNOWN AS 917 GREEN POND RD.

R-22-62 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE ON AN ONLINE AUCTION WEBSITE

R-22-64 AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO R-22-56 TO REMOVE 4 VEHICLES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR AUCTION AND DEDICATING SAME FOR USE IN EXTRICATION TRAINING BY THE ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE SUBSEQUENT DISPOSAL OF SUCH VEHICLES AS SCRAP METAL

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett, to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, P. Wojtowicz, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

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

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Quinn attended the Citizen's Recreation Committee yesterday evening, Recreation is scrambling to find fields for the sports programs, due to the construction at Peterson Field. The Planning Board reviewed and cleaned up language in ordinance O-22-08. Dial-A-Ride held a trip to the Cracker Barrel on March 28th, the next trip will be to P.F. Chang's on April 25th. Mr. Quinn wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover.

Councilman Friedlander announced that the Library's Spring Festival will be held on April 24th, it should be a great day for families. The Ford Faesch House recently held a presentation on metal detecting. He thanked the Administration on behalf of the Historical Society, for applying for the grant for the Ford Faesch House. On May 19th, the Rockaway River Barn will be hosting "Concert for a Cause", where twenty-percent of that day's proceeds will be donated to the Substance Abuse Alliance. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

Councilwoman Brookes thanked the Administration for proclaiming April as Volunteer Month. She thinks that adding the volunteer opportunity information to the Township's website is great for residents. Ms. Brookes stated that the closure of the fields at Peterson is to keep the Township's residents safe during the ongoing construction. She thanked Al Knoth for hosting the Council and taking them on a tour of the Public Works facilities. The Hibernia Ladies Auxiliary held a breakfast this past Saturday for opening day of trout season, it was a nice event.

Councilman Wojtowicz had no report.

Councilwoman Noon wished all happy holidays and said that the items she wanted to report have been covered. She closed by thanking Al for the tour of Public Works facilities.

Vice-President Sackett enjoyed the tour of the Public Works facilities as well as the Easter Festival at Copeland School. He stated that he has witnessed vehicles driving around school

buses, it is an issue that needs to be addressed. He requested an update from the Administration regarding the well contamination, and from Chief McParland regarding the speeding on Jackson Ave. He wished all happy holidays.

President Kritz provided the residents with a summary of the Council's tour of the Public Works facilities, he thanked Al Knoth for the opportunity. He commended the Hibernia Ladies Auxiliary for their opening day event, it was nice to see families out together again. He spoke about the temporary closure of Peterson Field. He thanked the residents for attending the meeting this evening and speaking passionately.

Mayor Jackson announced that going forward, during the first Council meeting of every month he will be recognizing a veteran employed by the Township. Lt. Michael Dachisen. He appreciates that the Council took the time to meet with Al Knoth. He stated that the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments are the backbone of our community. He commended David Dyer and Susan Gaeb in Recreation for a job well done regarding the Easter Festival. He will be meeting with Mr. Dyer and the Heads of the sports programs tomorrow night.

Attorney Iacofano stated that it was great to see everyone in person again. He spoke about the Board of Assessment Commissioners meetings, their review of the Bowlbyville project has concluded and a report will be submitted to Council in about two weeks. He thanked everyone involved for their assistance. He reported on several matters of litigation.

Ms. Seger stated that the sweeper is up and running. She said that the Township has a new phone system and asked that all are patient while the setup gets completed. She reported that the Memorial Day parade is on May 30th in the Borough; Clean Communities day is on April 23rd and we're asking for volunteers to help clean up, who will be given free seedlings for participating. She responded to the citizen who asked about the wells and said that all water currently going through the system conform to DEP standards.

Chief McParland reported that with the upcoming holidays and the instability in the world, he has reached out to Houses of Worship and will increase patrols. He reported on two recent incidents where police officers saved lives. He said that regarding speed bumps on Richard Mine Road, he will work with Engineering and will increase radar and patrolling. He reported on a Jackson Avenue traffic study. He said that the Historical Society's upcoming Pathways to History event that Councilwoman Noon referenced is on April 30th. He addressed Council Vice President Sackett's comment regarding vehicles passing stopped school buses and explained how violations were handled.

Mayor Jackson thanked the Chief for attending all the events in the Township.

Ms. Seger reported that all notices are posted on the Township's website.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice-President Sackett, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 8:53 PM. There was general consensus.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for April 26, 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			
P. Wojtowicz						X
J. Sackett			X			
H. Kritz			X			