

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –APRIL 26, 2022
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held at the Municipal Building, located at 65 Mt. Hope Rd., Rockaway, NJ and commenced at approximately 7:00 PM.

President Kritz led those present in the flag salute.

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, Vice President Sackett, and President Kritz.

Absent: Councilman Wojtowicz

Present from Administration: Mayor Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Mr. Bryan Coward, David Dyer, Chief Martin McParland, and Ray Sarinelli, Township Auditor.

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:

April 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve the April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 6 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 2 (D. Brookes, A. Salberg)

The results of the vote were announced. Six yes votes, two abstentions, motion carries.

April 12, 2022 – Closed Session

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to approve the April 12, 2022 Closed Session Minutes.

Roll call was taken.

Yah Votes: 6 (J. Quinn, E. Friedlander, M. Noon, R. Brookes, J. Sackett, H. Kritz)

Nah Votes: 0

Abstentions: 2 (D. Brookes, A. Salberg)

The results of the vote were announced. Six yes votes, two abstentions, motion carries.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

ORDINANCE TO ADOPT:

O-22-09 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-22-09.

President Kritz thanked the Mayor, CFO, and Administration for putting together this budget and said that he is pleased to announce that due to the hard work the average taxpayer will see a three percent reduction in the municipal portion of their taxes. He asked Mr. Sarinelli to provide a brief overview on the Township's financial state.

Mr. Sarinelli said that this budget is the continuation of good planning and that although a transition is taking place in Administration, much personnel is the same. He stated that the fund balance is good and he didn't expect to be in such good shape post pandemic and shut down. He said it's a good plan and having new ratables has helped with the reduction.

Open to the Public

Tucker Kelley, 16 Meggins Rd. Mr. Kelley spoke about Council's approval of a budget ordinance that includes an increase to the money Council Members are paid. He said there could be more effort by Council to pay employees rather than themselves.

Mike Ilardi, 19 N. Brookside Dr. Mr. Ilardi asked if someone could please explain the ordinance. Mr. Sarinelli responded that the COLA ordinance allows the Township to bank money if it keeps appropriations under the CAP limit. This allows towns to have money if some sort of emergency comes up and is a good planning tool.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS:

R-22-66 RESOLUTION TO READ THE 2022 OPERATING BUDGET BY TITLE

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice President Sackett, to approve R-22-66.

There was no Council discussion.

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

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

R-22-67 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Salberg, to approve R-22-67.

Open to the Public

Michael Ilardi, 19 N. Brookside Dr. Mr. Ilardi asked about the dollar amount of this budget. Ms. Palmieri responded that it is \$42,164,384.97.

Tucker Kelley, 16 Meggins Rd. Mr. Kelley asked about the budget increases and asked Council to think about reducing their salaries.

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

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

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

O-22-10 BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,613,675 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,187,675 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to adopt Ordinance O-22-10.

There was no public comment.

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

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

O-22-11 BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,279,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,193,800 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-22-11.

There was no public comment.

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

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

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY OF 2022 AND MAY OF EACH YEAR “BAG UP NJ” MONTH IN ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

Mayor Jackson stated that this proclamation was created by Peter Tabbot, the Health Officer, to encourage the use of reusable bags.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Michael Ilardi, 19 N. Brookside Dr. Mr. Ilardi said thanks for holding closed session at the end of the meeting. He asked if the conclusion for Bowlbyville will be announced at a Council meeting and was told yes by President Kritz.

Susanne Jackson, 315 Daniel St. Ms. Jackson said that she is married to the Mayor and that the two of them have been very active for 20 years in Rockaway Township. The two of them think that there is too much garbage on the sides of streets and she asked if Council and Administration would support forming a group to clean up more often.

Amber Lacitello, 41 Meriden Road. Ms. Lacitello stated that she has the same issue as Ms. Jackson, when she walks Meriden and Old Beach Glen and she would is trying to organize a cleanup for that area.

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Dr. Ms. Degnan stated that she doesn't think everyone understands that the Council Members do more work than meetings twice a month. She noted that she spoke with Councilman Friedlander and received help quickly, appreciates what they give, and she doesn't think a salary raise has been done for a long time.

Tucker Kelley, 16 Meggins Rd. Mr. Kelley said that Ms. Degnan must forget that he was a Council Member for four years and that he donated his salary back. He continued that the Township Attorney gives selective reports on litigation, and asked for a report on Zaphyr Technologies and the Grand Jury subpoena and investigation from the Prosecutor's office. He stated that Council had the opportunity to show empathy to employees by reducing their salaries.

Lisa Salberg, 10 Bergen Hill. Ms. Salberg stated that she is hearing from people that the YouTube link is not working.

President Kritz stated that there would be a short break to check on the streaming to YouTube.

ORDINANCE TO INTRODUCE:

O-22-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 SECTION 9.5 (C) “OFFENSIVE OR DANGEROUS WEAPONS” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to introduce Ordinance O-22-12.

Vice President Sackett asked what the reason was for the update to the ordinance. Ms. Seger responded that the attorney felt the update was necessary.

There was no Council discussion.

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

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

O-22-13 AMENDING CHAPTER 4, SECTION 6 “TOWING, ROAD SERVICE AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice President Sackett, to introduce Ordinance O-22-13.

There was no Council discussion.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-22-68 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE FEE FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

R-22-69 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX BILLING FOR THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2022

R-22-70 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#20-003 AGAINST BLOCK 11302.05 LOT 2.02 KNOWN AS 202 CLEVELAND LN.

R-22-71 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#19-032 AGAINST BLOCK 21301 LOT 63 KNOWN AS 55 SHAWNEE AVE.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Brookes stated that it's important to at least start with picking up at your own properties and then expand from there. He is looking forward to sports starting back up.

Councilwoman Noon reported that the Mt. Hope Spring Cleanup and the Library Spring Fest were both great events.

Councilman Quinn reported that the Planning Board canceled their meeting because there was nothing on the agenda. He said that the Citizen's Recreation Committee welcomed new members and are assigning them to programs. He noted that sports programs are starting up. He said that at the Parks Lake cleanup, he noted that the walkway needs work done it as there are several issues with it.

Councilman Friedlander reported that the Historical Society meeting is coming up this month and they're looking forward to receiving bids for interior work. He stated that on April 27 at 7 PM at the Municipal Building there will be a Picatinny historical event. He said that this Saturday from 12 to 4 PM the Ford Faesch House is part of the Morris County Pathways Tour. He reported that around 1600 people attended the Library Festival and it was an incredible day with new programs for the kids. He said that the Substance Abuse Alliance had a meeting and that the Concert for a Cause at the Rockaway Barn is on May 19 with twenty percent of the receipts getting donated to the organization. He stated that there was great turnout at the Mt. Hope cleanup and thanked the Health Department. He noted that the DPW does a tremendous job for the Township.

Councilwoman Brookes reported that the Historical Society is holding a Nordic Culture event on May 1 at the Norbu Lodge and these are always very interesting. She said that Kiwanis of Greater Rockaway is doing a Touch-a-Truck event on May 14th from 10 to 1 PM at the Dwyer parking lot and that try to raise funds for kids and people in need. She ended by stating that the Board of Education is holding a meeting tomorrow at 7:30 PM at Copeland and she believes that they are approving the preliminary budget.

Councilman Salberg stated that the Board of County Commissioners recently approved their budget and that from the press release it is the third consecutive year that they've prevented an increase in the County tax rate. He highlighted what they're doing locally.

Vice President Sackett said there was excellent turnout at the Rockaway Township Spring Cleanup at Mt. Hope and that there are bottles and cigarette butts all over town. He commented that the Library Spring Fest was packed. He noted that the Citizen's Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for May 3. He said that a group of young ladies from Morris Hills track

team is traveling to the Penn Relays on April 28. He wished good luck to the Renegades this weekend at a tournament at Roxbury. He ended by wishing all moms a Happy Mother's Day.

President Kritz thanked the sports teams in town for being agile in looking for new fields while Peterson is under construction as he knows it's not easy. He reported that next week is Teacher Appreciation week. He wished Lili Sweet a happy birthday. He said that on Saturday, May 7 there is a Career Carnival for kids at the mall and he thinks this is a fantastic idea, noting that he'll try to make it.

Mayor Jackson said that there are many great things going on in the Township. He said that regarding the Spring Festival, he wanted to thank the first responders, Police Department, Firefighters, and EMS and also those who prepared for the event as there is much work done. He asked Councilman Friedlander about the amount of time he was at the Library Festival. He stated that he is working with the Mayor of Rockaway Borough on an event that he will provide more details on and that it is a goal to do more with the Borough. He reported on a meeting regarding a plaque and a Park Lake Memorial, with plans for a patio area, knee high wall, and a Rockaway Township Unico plaque dedicated to General Ray Odierno. He stated that the Spring Cleanup involved much work by individuals from the Health Department and DPW and he thanked them. He said that Rockaway Township will have a presence at the Career Carnival and he will stop by. He ended by saying that all the people who work for the Township are making these great things happen.

Attorney Iacofano said that he would respond to Mr. Kelley's request for a litigation report and apologized for what he perceived as selective. He gave a brief report.

Ms. Seger thanked the Council and staff for their work on the budget. She noted dates for staff appreciation and bring your child to work day. She noted to Councilman Quinn that many employees walk the Parks Lake path and that Mr. Coward applied for a grant along with the Borough to repave and fix the area, and that the Borough was awarded this and the work is being coordinated.

Ms. Palmieri thanked the Council for approving the budget.

Mr. Coward reported that, as Ms. Seger noted, the Township has been pursuing grants and low cost funding options to address the Parks Lake path. He said that recent tree work was done in order to anticipate this work.

Mr. Dyer thanked Principal Alfonso Gonnella from Copeland Middle School as he jumped on Career Day and provided much help in organizing. He said that on May 1, registration for Mt. Hope pond and summer camp opens up. He thanked residents for staying off of Peterson. He thanked Mayor Jackson for being a big presence on social media. He said that if residents have questions, instead of responding on social media to please call him at the municipal building.

Chief McParland reported that it has been a busy couple of weeks. He said that there were over 1,000 people at Dwayne Haskins' funeral this past Saturday at Christ Church. He said that Sunday was the Library Spring Festival and officers were assisting there. He noted that there were several fires, both vehicle and structural; at the fire on Whippoorwill Lane we lost a 98 year old resident. He thanked dispatcher Tom Grohowski who volunteered his time on what was a very hectic day. He is following up on traffic issues at White Meadow Lake and Richard Mine

Road, as well as other areas. He said that Friday is the last day for Captain Ryerson, retiring after 25 years of service. He gave a reminder for PAL Challenger Softball on Saturday 10 to noon. He noted that the American Legion is hosting a Mother's Day plant sale from 9 to 4 PM, May 5 through May 7.

CLOSED SESSION:

R-22-72 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 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to approve resolution R-22-72 and enter into Closed Session at 8:20 PM.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Brookes, seconded by Councilman Quinn, to end the Closed Session at 8:30 PM.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Vice President Sackett, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 8:31 PM. There was general consensus.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for May 10, 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			