

## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – APRIL 27, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 6:30PM.

Council President Jackson led those present in the flag salute.

Council President Jackson called for a moment of silence to remember the service and sacrifices of the armed service members who protect our Nation and the first responders who protect our neighborhoods. Council Member Kelley requested that Phyllis Smith's mother, Esther Donovan, a Rockaway Township resident who had sadly passed on April 20, 2021, be included in this moment of silence.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

**Present:** Council Members Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, and Jackson.

**Present from Administration:** Attorney Iacofano, Attorney Perrone, Ms. Patricia Seger, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, and Ms. Allison Ferrante.

Council President Jackson stated, "Please be advised that all electronic/remote meetings of the Township Council held on Webex are recorded. All members of the public will be provided the opportunity to speak. During any "public hearing" or "open to the public" sections of the meeting, the Township Clerk will unmute each member of the public and ask if they wish to speak. 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](mailto:questions@rockawaytownship.org) by the end of the "Open to the Public" session."

Council President Jackson stated, "This meeting was advertised in the Daily Record and the Star Ledger, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway on April 10, 2021. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township."

Motion was made by Council President Jackson, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to remove from the Agenda item #12, an Item for Discussion per Councilman Kelley: Reports/Records Requested under NJSA 40:69A-37.1 and NJSA 47:1A-1 [OPRA].

Council Member Kelley expressed his concern regarding the difficulty he has receiving records from the Township.

Council President Jackson provided his opinion on the subject matter, and stated that this matter was not to be discussed during Council Reports.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 13, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Brookes, to approve the April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Quinn, Friedlander, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions: 1 (Kritz)

Motion carries.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT:**

**O-21-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY**

No member of the Public or Council commented.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-21-20.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes:

Motion carries.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

6:44 Jim Wartens, 48 Seneca Avenue. Mr. Wartens stated that he wanted to have an ice cream truck visit everyone, but couldn't find someone to stop at ten different places so it will need to be done when we all get back together again.

Lili Sweet, 1 Oakland Avenue. Ms. Sweet wished all a happy Mother's Day.

**ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:**

**O-21-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL" OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY**

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to introduce Ordinance O-21-21.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

**O-21-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENT, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY TO PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATION WITH DISCRETION TO HIRE ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICERS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 11A:4-1.3**

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to introduce Ordinance O-21-22.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**R-21-75 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#19-028 AGAINST BLOCK 20701 LOT 6.01 KNOWN AS 13 ALGONQUIN AVE.**

**R-21-76 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#20-009 BLOCK 21705 LOT 18, KNOWN AS 2 CALUMET AVE.**

**R-21-77 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ADMINISTERING THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT**

**R-21-78 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX SALE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-19**

**R-21-79 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH REALAUCTION.COM, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING MUNICIPAL TAX LIEN SALES FOR 2021 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-19.1**

**R-21-80 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT**

**R-21-81 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE BID THRESHOLD FOR ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP**

**R-21-82 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP THEREIN FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Salberg to remove resolutions R-21-80 and R-21-81 for separate discussion and vote.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 7 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon)

Nah Votes: 2 (Sackett, Jackson)

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn to approve the remaining items of the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Attorney Iacofano recommended tabling R-21-80 to allow for a Rice notice if there was going to be discussion.

There was argument regarding whether the resolution could be discussed.

Council Member Kelley questioned Attorney Iacofano and the Township Clerk about the need for a Rice notice and if one had been requested or sent.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Quinn to approve R-21-80.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

There was discussion regarding R-21-81. Council Member Salberg asked to what amount is the threshold being increased. There was discussion regarding the bid threshold.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to approve R-21-81.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 8 (Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

##### **EMS:**

Rena Tolsma

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to appoint Rena Tolsma to EMS.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

#### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS (Combined):**

Council Member Noon stated that she attended her first spring cleanup this year and was very impressed with it.

Council Member Kelley stated that he also participated in spring cleanup with his daughter and was pleasantly surprised at how clean Mt. Hope pond was. He said that Mr. Swanton's staff has been preparing the fields, and that the DPW and Morris County have been doing repairs. For old business, Council Member Kelley asked when Iacofano & Perrone took over the Bowlbyville sewer assessment and noted that it's troublesome that there hasn't been a meeting and asked what the delay is. Council Member Kelley asked about when Council will switch back to in-person meetings.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley for Mayor Puzio and his administration to provide the plans P1 and P2 in reference to the construction going on to him. No one seconded.

Council Member Kritz said that the elementary schools opened up full time, in person and that the middle schools are hoping to do so. He gave a shout out to the teachers, administration, and Board of Education. He continued that girls' softball and lacrosse

leagues are adhering to covid protocols and that they're out there having fun. He has seen the work at Peterson field and can't believe what's going on there, it's a great job. He reminded people to stay vigilant and safe.

Council Member Quinn said that Peterson field is looking great and that the spring sports are working well. He said that John Krickus denies Council Member Kelley's comments concerning the Freeholders being against coming to Rockaway Township and in fact they believe that Rockaway Township is a vital part of the County and want to set up a table at the Farmer's Market to help inform people about what they do. He reported that senior services have started a monthly program to get seniors out to restaurants and that they're excited for this.

Council Member Salberg said that on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Historical Society will be having a four-hour discussion on the Hibernia Miners' Church and he hopes everybody shows up as this will be very informative. He followed up on the Emerald Ash Borer damage with JCP&L and that they have \$3M for tree removal and have a hotline on their website to call if you need trees by power lines removed.

Council Member Friedlander reported that the library's quiet study room is almost completed. He said that the head person at the library has met with the mall to discuss using a storefront for the library. He said that the Historical Society has been running activities. He commended Peter Tabbot and his staff for doing a great job with the Clean Community program as the clean-up was well received. He said that the Farmer's Market is getting bigger as the warm weather comes.

Council Member Brookes reported that the sewer drains on Mt. Hope Ave. have all been adjusted and that milling and paving should start between Mt. Pleasant Ave. and Mt. Hope Rd. in a few weeks. He noted that baseball has started and to come out and watch.

Council Vice President Sackett said that all sports are up and running and that they're all doing a great job following protocols.

Council President Jackson said that he and his wife were at the Clean Community event and that Cara Sileno is the coordinator with the Health Department and does a great job, along with others in the department.

Ms. Seger reported that there will be a parade for the Borough and Township on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 and to save the date. She said that it will be scaled back and that she will provide more information as it becomes available. She stated that the Morris Commons lawsuit has come to an end after approximately 15 years thanks to everyone who testified and was involved. She said that we are now good until 2025 for COAH obligations.

Attorney Iacofano said happy Mother's Day, and that he had nothing to report.

Ms. Ferrante reported that things are moving along with Peterson field and that there was a hiccup with hitting the electric on P3/P4 and that it's up and running now. She said that they're moving out of the subbase and that concrete will be coming in and we'll be close to final grade soon. She said to avoid using the lower parking lot as it's an active construction site. She reported that the interior renovations are underway at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the senior center and that this is funded by a County grant.

Council President Jackson noted that there is a shredding event at Mt. Hope firehouse on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 to noon.

**DISCUSSION: AMENDING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Council President Jackson asked if anyone had any questions concerning Ms. Clipperton proposed changes to the annual schedule of meetings. There was discussion.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Kritz to move the June 8, 2021 meeting to June 15, 2021.

Roll Call Was Taken.

Yah Votes: 9 (Kelley, Quinn, Friedlander, Kritz, Salberg, Brookes, Noon, Sackett, Jackson)

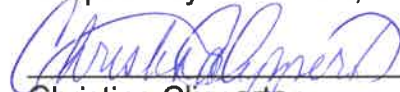
Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander to adjourn this meeting at approximately 7:37PM. All members unanimously agreed.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Clipperton  
Municipal Clerk