

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –MAY 10, 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, Councilman Wojtowicz, Vice President Sackett, and President Kritz.

Present from Administration: Mayor Jackson, Attorney Iacofano, Ms. Patricia Seger, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Mr. Bryan Coward, David Dyer, Chief Martin McParland, Mr. Al Knoth, and Mr. Ryan Furrey.

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.”

Mayor Jackson stated that at the first Council Meeting of each month they want to recognize an employee who is a veteran. He added that, this month, we honor former Police Officer Anthony (Tony) Eresman who passed away in August of 2020. He said that Tony was an officer with Rockaway Township for 13 years and prior to that he achieved rank of Corporal with the US Marine Corps, serving two combat tours in Iraq, noting that he is greatly missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 26, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve the April 26, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Vice President Sackett, seconded by Councilman Salberg, to amend the minutes to reflect that the meeting was held in person rather than via Webex.

Roll call was taken to amend the minutes.

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

Nah Votes: 0

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

Roll call was taken to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Nah Votes: 0

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

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:

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 Salberg, to adopt Ordinance O-22-12.

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

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

The results of the vote were announced. Nine 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 Councilman Friedlander, to adopt Ordinance O-22-13.

Public Comment.

Tucker Kelley, 16 Meggins Road. Mr. Kelley asked for the definition of recovery in Section F and G. President Kritz noted that this is not a question and answer session and Mr. Kelley can send an email to Administration to ask.

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

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Tucker Kelley, 16 Meggins Road. Mr. Kelley asked if there is a requirement for the public to sign in on a sheet. He stated that resolution R-22-79 is on tonight's agenda for going into closed session for anticipated contract negotiations and noted that the Mayor and Council approved salary increases for themselves recently. He said that he's interested to see if they'll apply the same method for calculating salaries for employees.

President Kritz stated that the Mayor and Council did get increases after performing a study to see what other towns pay for these offices and that it is a fact that we are nowhere near what comparable sized towns pay. He said that if we're going to talk about fiscal responsibility, let's talk about the numerous OPRA requests and law suits that Mr. Kelley has filed.

Yogi Gupta, 121 Hawthorne Ct. Mr. Gupta said that a group he's involved with is doing an exhibition called Darshana, A Glimpse into the Hindu Civilization at the Morris County Library on May 20 from 1 to 4 PM. He encouraged all to attend to learn about this subject.

CONSENT AGENDA:

R-22-73 2010 – 2016 TAX COURT JUDGEMENT REFUNDS

R-22-74 REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIEN C#21-006 AGAINST BLOCK 30301 LOT 11 KNOWN AS 533 GREEN POND RD.

R-22-75 2021 TAX COURT JUDGEMENT REFUND

R-22-76 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR WHITE MEADOW LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

R-22-77 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR CHRIST CHURCH, ROCKAWAY NEW JERSEY

R-22-78 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACTING FOR REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL SERVICES

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, 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

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

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, AND REPORTS:

Councilman Quinn reported that the Citizens Recreation Committee continues to work on assignments for members, which should be completed soon. He expressed appreciation to all involved in sports programs for their flexibility because of the Peterson field construction work. He thanked the Mayor and Administration for supporting Dial-a-Ride and noted that some of the seniors who use the service suffer from depression. He stated that there is a new program dealing with positive thinking and reinforcement for seniors who are suffering from disabilities and depression that is spearheaded by Veronica and Michael Hodges in the Health Department. He said that there is an upcoming program for this scheduled for May 16th at 1 PM at the Senior Center. He ended by stating that there will be a trip run by Dial-a-Ride to IHop in Parsippany that is on the same day and seniors can get picked up and go to both.

Councilman Friedlander stated that the Historical Society was very busy with two programs; one a tribute to Dr. Patrick Owens who was a longtime member and guest host of many Picatinny-related programs and the other about the historical maps of Rockaway Township. The latter was attended by a fourth grade class and they really loved it. He reported that a tour was held at Ford Faesch for the County-wide Pathways of History. He noted that there was a Highlands Coalition meeting at the senior building that was very informative and well attended. He stated that May 19th is the Substance Abuse Alliance Concert for a Cause that will result in 20 percent of proceeds going back to the organization.

Councilwoman Brookes stated that Aaron Tomasini, the Chair of Community Outreach committee for the Board of Education sent out communication regarding Dr. Richard Corbett who will start as Superintendent of the Rockaway Township School District on July 1. She noted that one of the women who runs programs for the seniors is putting together a trip to Lake George and that a flyer will be coming out.

Councilman Salberg said that there is nothing to report on the County Board of Commissioners. He brought up that at the open to the public section of the last meeting Susanne Jackson had brought up concerns about trash on Green Pond Road and she had suggested starting resident driven clean up events. He said that he reached out to the Commissioners and the Director of Public Works responded that the County performed road cleanup work which consisted of nearly 25 bags of debris in the last few weeks and that they would be happy to work with the Township to coordinate other cleanups. He continued that we can get some volunteers and organize some beautification projects in the area, noting to Mrs. Jackson that they would talk after this meeting. He stated that the Career Carnival was really successful and he hopes it becomes an annual event.

Councilman Wojtowicz stated that he had no report.

Councilwoman Noon reported that if you haven't been to the Ford Faesch House, it's an interesting place and will soon be closed for renovations. She noted that the Career Carnival was a great event.

Councilman Brookes said that the school year is winding down. He asked that all be careful driving because of children in the streets. He noted that football and hockey signups have started for the upcoming year.

Vice President Sackett stated that the Citizens Recreation Committee met on May 3rd and that there are new committee members doing a great job. He said that sports are in full swing.

President Kritz recognized the Fire Department as there was another fire and that the officers who responded were able to save a life. He thanked those involved. He stated that he received much positive feedback on the Career Carnival. He said that with two days of rain he was able to consider the tour that Councilmembers were given by the Public Works Supervisor and he thanked that department for their work.

Mayor Jackson stated that he got positive feedback regarding the camera work done at the Township's Council meetings. He said that he and his wife were honored to be at the Founders Dinner at the Chabad Center. He thanked Dave Dyer and Michele Moran for their work on the Career Fair, along with Chief McParland, other officers, and a representative from the Fire

Department. He said that this event and the one that Councilman Quinn reported on hosted by the Health Department are examples of what we want to offer more of. He stated that since becoming Mayor he tries to engage with the community and be a positive influence and noted that the job is political and with that comes challenges. He continued that Mr. Kelley is running against him in the Primary and that Mr. Kelley had felt it was appropriate to request his email log and turn it over to his employer and file an ethics complaint. He said that this occurred with Mayor Dachisen and that the harassment and bullying by Mr. Kelley continues. He said that he is just starting to put out campaign signs and he is making a commitment to only put them on private property as he believes they are an eyesore. He ended by noting that he is not going to be intimidated or scared from doing what he thinks is right for Rockaway Township.

President Kritz said that there was an email from Mr. Ilardi that thanked the DPW for work they did across from the Clubhouse.

Ms. Seger reported that there is a Touch a Truck event at Dwyer.

Ms. Palmieri reported that today is the last day for second quarter tax payments.

Mr. Coward stated that he had no report.

Mr. Dyer stated that he had no report.

Mr. Furrey stated that he had no report.

Mr. Knoth stated that he had no report.

CLOSED SESSION:

R-22-79 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 ANTICIPATED CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to approve resolution R-22-79 and enter into Closed Session at 7:37 PM.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Friedlander, to end the Closed Session at 8:00 PM.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilman Quinn, seconded by Councilwoman Brookes, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 8:01 PM. There was general consensus.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for May 24, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Clipperton, Deputy
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			