

## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Webex Events and commenced at approximately 6:36PM.

Council President Jackson led those present in the flag salute.

Council President Jackson 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. Council Member Salberg asked that we remember the three township residents whose lives were lost during the 9/11 tragedy; namely Margaret Benson, Liam Callahan, and Robert Mattson.

Roll Call was taken for attendance.

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

**Present from Administration:** Mayor Michael Puzio, Attorney Iacofano, Attorney Perrone, Mr. David Dyer, Ms. Lisa Palmieri, Ms. Allison Ferrante, Mr. Peter Tabbot, Chief Martin McParland, Mr. Al Knoth, and Mr. Jeffrey Heintzelman.

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. 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 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 on August 28, 2021, the official newspapers for the Township of Rockaway. Notice was posted on the official bulletin boards of Rockaway Township.”

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

August 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to approve the August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 1 (Kelley)

Abstentions:

Motion carries.

**ORDINANCES TO ADOPT:**

**O-21-29** ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE FORD-FAESCH HOUSE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS PROJECT BY THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, AND APPROPRIATING \$15,720 THEREFOR CONSTITUTING PROCEEDS OF A GRANT FROM THE MORRIS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST.

Motion was made by Council Member Friedlander, seconded by Council Member Kelley, to adopt Ordinance O-21-29.

**Public Hearing/Council Discussion**

Council Member Kelley stated that the Ford-Faesch House is a staple in the township as a historical building and that an employee's family was one of the last to live there. He noted that the work completed to date has been a phenomenal job and asked if there is a goal for completion and a cost analysis. Mayor Puzio responded that this is an ongoing project and much is being funded through grants, and he can't give an exact timeline but can look into it and get back to him at the next meeting.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

**O-21-30** AMENDING CHAPTER VII TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I, SECTION 7-6 PARKING OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKAWAY, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to adopt Ordinance O-21-30.

**Public Hearing/Council Discussion**

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Dr. Ms. Degnan asked if the ordinance just pertained to the one street, and Council President Jackson confirmed that was correct. She had no further comment.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Pat Degnan, 88 Valley View Dr. Ms. Degnan complained about that the no parking signs in White Meadow Lake aren't visible enough and that there needs to be more of them, specifically when there is snow. She asked if someone could look into this. She commented that regarding R-21-149, she doesn't understand what it is trying to do. She asked if an example would be purging Columbus Day or Veterans Day from the calendar. Mayor Puzio responded that he had asked for this to be put on the agenda and that he has always been inclusive in celebrating the diversity in town. He continued that the point of the resolution was so that people know that we're not taking away from any group, instead we're adding.

**ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE:**

**O-21-31 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 5 OF THE ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP LICENSING ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW SECTION, SECTION 5-10, ET. SEQ. ENTITLED "RECREATIONAL CANNABIS LICENSES".**

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Member Salberg, to introduce Ordinance O-21-31.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 2 (Kelley, Brookes)

Motion carries.

**EHRlich & JOHNSON, LLC LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER TO P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.:**

**RESOLUTION R-21-144 RESOLUTION APPROVING A PERSON-TO-PERSON AND PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF A PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE FROM EHRlich & JOHNSON, LLC. TO P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC. D/B/A PF CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO**

**Public Hearing**

Council Member Kelley asked if everything is in order knowing that one of the partners of this LLC is now deceased. Ms. Clipperton, the Township Clerk, replied that she has everything she needs to submit to the State.

Motion was made by Council Member Friedlander, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to approve Resolution R-21-144.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 0

Motion carries.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**R-21-145 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELATION AND REFUND OF 2021 & 2022 TAXES ON A CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS: 1078 GREEN POND RD, BLOCK 40801 LOT 84.01 WHERE THE OWNER QUALIFIES FOR A 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION.**

**R-21-146 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELATION AND REFUND OF 2020, 2021 & 2022 TAXES ON A CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS: 957 GREEN POND RD, BLOCK 40701**

LOT 35 WHERE THE OWNER QUALIFIES FOR A 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION.

**R-21-147** AUTHORIZING THE CANCELATION AND REFUND OF 2021 & 2022 TAXES ON A CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS: 47 MEGGINS RD, BLOCK 30201 LOT 9.01 WHERE THE OWNER QUALIFIES FOR A 100% DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION.

**R-21-148** 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-21-149** RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESOLUTION 2021-593 PASSED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, ON JULY 14, 2021

**R-21-150** 2021 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND ON: 137 WEST LAKE SHORE DRIVE, BLOCK 20702 LOT 33

**R-21-151** RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R-21-18 GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THE COST OF WHICH WERE ANTICIPATED TO EXCEED THE BID THRESHOLD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW

**R-21-152** RESOLUTION AMENDING R-21-19, R-21-33, R-21-85, R-21-121 and R-21-142 BY ADDING TO THE AUTHORIZED LISTS OF VENDORS SET FORTH IN THOSE RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE USE OF STATE, COUNTY, AND REGIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021

**R-21-153** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE SERVICE APPARATUS FOR A TOTAL PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$688,726.27.

**R-21-154** 2021 TAX OVERPAYMENT REFUND ON: 55 OMAHA AVE., BLOCK 22006 LOT 53

**R-21-155** RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R-13-60 ESTABLISHING FEES FOR COPIES

**R-21-156** 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-21-157** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,650.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW

**R-21-158** RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANNUAL FEES FOR MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL CANNABIS APPLICATIONS AND LICENSES

Motion was made by Council Vice President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Salberg, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Kelley requested that R-21-155 and R-21-156 be removed from the Consent Agenda for a couple of questions. Council President Jackson told him to ask his questions. Council Member Kelley said that for R-21-155, the USB pricing is much higher than what he can find online. Ms. Clipperton responded that the pricing is the lowest provided by the township approved office supplies vendor. Council Member Kelley said that for R-21-156, the sale of surplus personal property, it appears from the resolution that the township owns a car hauler and he is not aware that we have this equipment. He asked if it should be corrected to show that it is

an impounded item. Mr. Perrone said that he would have to research this but he doesn't see that it would be detrimental to pass the resolution. There was discussion.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Sackett, seconded by Council Member Friedlander, to remove R-21-149 from the agenda.

Roll Call Was Taken.

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

Nah Votes: 2 (Kelley, Jackson)

Item removed from voting.

Roll Call Was Taken. (for Consent Agenda)

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

Yah Votes to all except R-21-156: 1 (Kelley)

Nah Votes to R-21-156: 1 (Kelley)

Motion carries.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:**

**Junior Firefighter:** Justin Schorno

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Quinn, to appoint Justin Schorno as a Junior Firefighter.

Council Member Kelley noted that Mr. Schorno's family is very involved in the township.

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, AND REPORTS:**

Council Member Brookes stated that he is glad to see kids back in school and that hopefully they'll be able to continue through the year. He congratulated Justin Schorno on his appointment.

Council Member Kritz reported that the Rockets had their pep rally and their first game recently. He invited everyone to their first home game this Saturday and said it's great to see the kids back at school and on the field. He thanked Mr. Swanton and his team for getting the field ready for the pep rally despite all of the heavy rains.

Council Member Noon said that she attended the pep rally and the senior picnic, and both events were very enjoyable. She asked about the spotted lantern flies and if there was a plan for them as she is seeing them all over the place.

Council Member Kelley noted that it has been a while since the last Council meeting and so if he runs a bit over the designated fifteen minutes, he hopes that it's allowed. He said that he received an email from Ms. Christensen about girls' volleyball and that she is trying to find places to practice. He brought up possible locations. He said that the township took care of cleanup for Hurricane Ida and that JCP&L quickly addressed power outages. He asked Chief McParland if

he could inform us about Mine Hill possibly being policed by Rockaway Township. Mayor Puzio said that these are not questions relevant to this meeting and that he will bring items to the attention of Council when it's time to discuss them. Council Member Kelley brought up that other groups are meeting in person and asked Council President Jackson why Council meetings are still virtual.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to go back to in-person meetings; no one seconded.

Council Member Kelley stated that Mayor Puzio sent a letter dated August 20, 2021 to Fox Hills residents regarding polling locations and he wants this to be in the record. He spoke about several election issues related to Fox Hills as a polling place. Council Member Kelley asked about certain personnel being told they could leave early on the Friday before the Labor Day weekend while others weren't. Mayor Puzio responded that this is a personnel issue that doesn't relate to the Council. He ended with comments and questions regarding the senior picnic.

Council Member Quinn reported that the senior picnic was very good and he talked to many of the seniors who were happy to attend, and who are also using Dial-a-Ride services. He said that Dial-a-Ride is planning another event for senior services that includes special needs kids. He added that he was at a recent football event and he is looking forward to the upcoming game versus Denville. He said that he had responded to the person's email inquiring about volleyball and that prior to COVID, the DBO school was used for volleyball. He continued that the Recreation Committee is looking at the community center for programs. He is pleased that the next phase of Peterson Field has gone out to bid and he is looking forward to hearing from Administration on the outcome. He noted that the Planning Board's work has been light during the summer. He ended with a note that the Recreation Committee has a meeting planned in September.

Council Member Salberg said that, concerning the spotted lantern flies, we are in the middle of an infestation and that there are links on the township's website in civic alerts to educational information. He continued that the emerald ash borers also continue to be an issue and JCP&L is backlogged with the removal of trees affected by these. He reported that he volunteered at the senior picnic and it was a great opportunity to give back. He added that he supports the remote meetings until we're out of an increasing mode with the Delta variant of COVID.

Council Member Friedlander was called on and Council Vice President Sackett informed the Council President that Council Member Friedlander had been dropped from the meeting.

Council Vice President Sackett proceeded with his report. He said that Hurricane Ida caused a great deal of damage at his house and he noted that there is FEMA assistance for those in our community. He wished all a sweet, new year for those who celebrate Rosh Hashanah and noted that Yom Kippur starts tomorrow night. He said that the senior picnic was awesome, he got much great feedback from seniors and they liked the way that the food was served instead of waiting in lines. He also said that Sue Gabe and her team along with volunteers did a great job. He noted that Fall cleanup is upcoming. He ended by reported that sports are in full gear and to get out and support the teams.

Council President Jackson reported that the senior picnic was great and that there were over 320 seniors in attendance. He stated that this is much work and that the team that pulls this together

plus all of the volunteers makes for a great group effort. He reiterated that there is a Clean Community event and said that on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4 at Birchwood Firehouse #4 there is an annual open house and mum sale.

Council Member Friedlander got back on at 7:43PM. He reported that the Substance Abuse Alliance has finally set up a meeting on September 23. He added that all the other committees have been quiet. He enjoyed the pep rally and wishes he could have been at the senior picnic but he was out of town. He commended Administration for working with JCP&L on Hurricane Ida damage and DPW for quickly repairing two recent water main breaks.

Mayor Puzio thanked the Rockaway Township Fire Department for their efforts at the Labor Day parade in Boonton. He added that it was a fantastic parade, they won some awards, and it was a great showing. He said that on Wednesday, the PAL Challenger league is having flag football at Morris Hills Gifford Field. He said that he is proud of the Council and that he had put in a Resolution for this meeting and that it's ok to agree to disagree without being unprofessional. He said that what is important is that we continue as an elected body to work together and he has seen that happen in the last year and a half. He reported that we have been able to achieve real progress for residents and he recapped several recent and upcoming projects. He ended by stating that he invited several department heads to give reports.

Attorney Iacofano stated that he has no report.

Chief McParland reported that he'd like to remind all that schools are open and that they've increased patrols around schools and with it getting darker earlier for drivers to keep in mind that kids are out. He noted that we are in the midst of Jewish holidays and he spoke with local rabbis and offered assistance as needed. He noted that police officers assisted with the senior picnic in serving food and traffic control. He said this past Sunday officers assisted with the annual Unico Charity Motorcycle Run to make money for St. Jude's. Chief McParland got dropped from the Webex conference.

Al Knoth reported that the parks division did a great job getting the Recreation fields prepped for the senior picnic. He said that the automotive division is going through the equipment to get ready for winter. He continued that the traffic division will look into the issue brought up about White Meadow area and they are updating signs. The recycling division finished a makeup day for route eight today. He reported that roads has finished milling and paving Pillar Drive and tomorrow they are paving the lower half of Comanche and South Brookside. He continued that they will be milling the upper portion of Stony Brook and then going to Mt. Pleasant and Hart Street. They are also working on some large drainage projects throughout town. The water division is currently in the middle of a water main break on the lower half of Richard Mine Road and there is a boil water advisory and the crew is working hard to get it repaired. He reported on well 8 and well 10. Lastly, they are preparing to start the Kings Road water main replacement project.

Chief McParland continued his report on the Unico Charity Motorcycle Run. He then stated that on Sunday there was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial of the 9/11 catastrophe in Parsippany and it's important for us to remember and for the upcoming generations to never forget. He said that PAL is on Wednesday at Morris Hills at 6PM and also Challenger's soccer is starting this Saturday from 10 to 12 at Germania Park.

Ms. Ferrante thanked the Council for the approval of R-21-157 which awards GZA for the conceptual design on the Mt. Hope Pond dam. She said that we're currently within the deconstruction of the Lake Hudsonia dam project. She stated that the Kings Road improvements Section 2 is out to bid right now and that the water main replacement and Kings Road Section 1 will be worked on probably in Spring 2022. There are ADA ramps going in on Jordan and Heather, as well as traffic and pedestrian improvements in the Lake Telemark area. She continued that the work on the senior center first floor interior renovations is completed and they are now looking into design improvements for the basement.

Mr. Dyer reported that concerning the senior picnic which has been spoken about a number of times, he was able to see first-hand how much work was involved by Tracie Kasko, Sue Gabe, and Susanne Jackson.

Ms. Palmieri stated that the 2022 budget process is underway and budget packets were sent out yesterday to all department/division heads. She noted several deadlines.

Mr. Heintzelman commended the Fire Department for their efforts on R-21-153, as the truck committee from White Meadow Lake took considerable effort to spec out new equipment. He said that Marcella is looking for a new offroad vehicle. He brought up trophies won at the Boonton parade and said that the department is always ready for calls to duty. He said that there are multiple upcoming trainings include two live burns.

Mr. Tabbot gave a COVID update with numbers consistent with the region. He noted that there will soon be a weekly COVID update made available to the public which will include the latest information. He gave recognition to the township's Health staff for their efforts. He reported that there are two flu clinics scheduled on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-6PM and October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30PM.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to restore the polling places back to the traditional places pre-COVID 19. No one seconded.

Motion was made by Council Member Kelley to restore the polling places back to Fox Hills, which was a traditional polling place. No one seconded.

Motion was made by Council Member Quinn, seconded by Council Vice President Sackett, to adjourn this meeting at approximately 8:08PM. There was general consensus.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council of the Township of Rockaway is scheduled for September 30, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Clipperton  
Municipal Clerk



	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Kelley				X		
Quinn	X		X			
Friedlander						X
Kritz			X			
Salberg			X			
Brookes			X			
Noon			X			
V.P. Sackett		X	X			
C.P. Jackson			X			