

March 14, 2023

A meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Township Clerk Iannarone announced adequate notice of this meeting was provided and published in the Asbury Park Press and The Ocean Star on January 27, 2023. Copies of the agenda were provided to the newspapers, posted on public bulletin boards and the township website (www.bricktownship.net)

Present

Councilman Perry Albanese
Councilwoman Marianna Pontoriero
Councilman Derrick T. Ambrosino
Councilman Vince Minichino
Council Vice President Andrea Zapcic
Council President Heather deJong

Also Present

Lisa Crate, Mayor
Kevin Starkey, Township Attorney
Lynnette A. Iannarone, Township Clerk
Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the February 28, 2023 Meeting and approve same.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Presentations

1. Girl Scout Silver Award – Mayor Crate presented a certificate to Sofia Kriso, of Girl Scout Troop #1735 for earning her Silver Award.
2. Boy Scout Eagle Award – Mayor Crate presented a certificate to Colin Pizzuro, Boy Scouts of America Troop #39 for earning his Eagle Scout Award.
3. “March for Meals” Proclamation – Mayor Crate presented a proclamation to Wyatt Earp recognizing the Ocean County Meals on Wheels program.

Budget Presentations

Administration – Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator

On behalf of all the Department and Division Heads represented in this report, thanks to our Mayor and members of the Township Council for your ongoing support. I will go through the division budgets that are included under administration. There are 11 budgets and hundreds of line items.

Administration - Administration staff includes 4 full-time employees. Administration is the front line for all in-person and telephone inquiries that come to the Township. They also track and ensure follow-up on all email inquiries that come through the web site. Staff also handled 17,399 calls in 2022. Public relations, marketing and special events are also handled by Administration including monitoring and updating of the Township's website and social media sites including Facebook and Twitter; preparation and dissemination of press releases; and oversight of Brick Township's PEG Channel, BTV. We have won several awards for our efforts to keep the public informed. Staff also manages the Buy In Brick Program, which continues to grow and benefit our taxpayers. There was \$644,597 Buy in Brick Sales (dollars processed) in 2022. Resident tax savings in 2022 was \$44,200.00. Administration also manages constituent relations and publications such as advertisements, promotional materials, recycling brochures, event flyers, and any other publications as needed. Administration manages the design and creation of our Recreation Brochure and Senior Booklet, reducing the overall cost by bringing this work in-house. Administration staff also provides support to municipal Boards and Commissions. The operating budget increased by \$250 as a direct result of the increased costs associated with the printing of the Township newsletter.

Mayor's Office & Council

The Office of the Mayor includes our Mayor and one staff member. Mayor Crate maintains office hours each week. The Council's salary and wage budget remains flat. The operating budget for the Council totals \$1,600, which is a decrease of 1% due to cancellation of dues. The Council budget includes items like conferences, flowers for special events, plaques, nameplates, letterhead, business cards, presentation folders, publications and miscellaneous office supplies.

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Purchasing

The Office of Purchasing and Contracting is a division within the Department of Administration and Finance. It is the responsibility of the Division of Purchasing and Contracting to conduct all purchasing, the acquisition of all goods and services, in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of New Jersey, more specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, the Local Public Contracts Law. The Purchasing Department operating budget for 2022 had a 3.4% increase due to postage rates. In 2022, this office processed approximately: 4,600 Purchase Orders, 29 Bids for Goods & Services, 22 Professional Services Requests for Proposals, 10 Capital Bid Projects, 18 Formal Requests for Quotes. The above tasks were accomplished by an office staff of three (3). This office also oversees the central receiving/mail room, which includes one (1) additional staff member. He has processed over 67,000 pieces of mail, plus delivery to post office for bulk mail projects, approximately 14,000 pieces of mail (tax delinquent notices, neighborhood watch mailings, etc.). He delivers mail, packages and supplies throughout the municipal complex and all off-site locations, manages the central receiving and stockroom. Postage encompasses 93% of the operating budget.

Human Resources

The HR department manages all Township employees - currently 425 full-time and 169 part-time/seasonal. During the summer months, they coordinate all hiring and employee management for the approximately 150 additional employees. They create and institute HR policies and maintain compliance with state and federal laws. HR handles all employee training including safety, the Employee Assistance Program and other workplace trainings. All health benefits are handled by Human Resources. They coordinate with our brokers for contract proposals, renewals, rate changes, fee submissions and compliance with federal guidelines. They handle required reporting as well as resolving claims issues. HR staff process all liability claims with our insurance company. They ensure compliance with safety regulations and vendor insurance. Highlights and accomplishments from 2022 include: Implementation of UKG (new payroll and HR system), COVID policies and tracking, implementation of additional employee training programs, completion of union negotiations with all four (4) units, and medical claim oversight. Projects for 2023 include continued adjustments to UKG, implementation of the Police/EMS/Dispatch scheduling software, continued oversight of Horizon, develop an overall training schedule/plan, hold mandatory supervisor training, develop a new employee orientation, and revise and update the Employee Handbook and Safety Manual. Human Resources had a 34% decrease in its operating budget. Last year, there was a one-time software purchase that is not a recurring cost.

Township Clerk

The Clerk's Office is comprised of five full time staff members. The Township Clerk and Assistant Township Clerk each hold Registered Municipal Clerk certifications. Every staff member is a Notary Public and one is fluent in English and Spanish. The Division of Archives also falls under the Clerk. The Township Clerk's office issued over 2000 licenses, permits and services in 2022 totaling \$479,597.09 and 1,419 dog and cat licenses totaling \$27,481.00. The Office of Vital Statistics which includes all records of births, deaths and marriages issued 4,781 certificates and 471 marriage applications totaling \$42,211.00 (Governor Murphy waived the marriage license application fee for FY22). Additionally, they collected \$15,140.00 in Tourism fees, handled over 11,000 phone calls, processed 2005 OPRA requests, 300 landlord registrations, 250 Do Not Knock registrations and notarize numerous documents each week. The office organizes and works annual events such as Elections and the Rabies Clinic (where between 200-400 animals are vaccinated each year). In 2023 the office is moving toward more on-line submission forms and digitizing permits and licenses. They continue to work on the ability to receive credit card payments for on-line transactions. The **Division of Archives** manages and preserves Township records has a staff of two full-time employees, and our Archivist (who is shared with Code Enforcement) and who holds state and federal records management certifications. In 2022 the Archives Division scanned 391,717 pages for a total of 1,131,938 files in 26 databases. They also received authorization and destroyed 285 cubic feet and received 211 boxes from the various departments. For 2023 they will continue with digital imaging, train and prepare for disaster recovery and work with Administration and IT to develop a webpage featuring documents of historical significance for the community. The operating budget for the Clerk's Office including Archives totals \$34,825.00 down 13% from last year as a result of a decrease in advertising costs and a decrease in conference expenditures.

Finance

The finance department consists of five full-time employees, two of whom are dedicated to payroll. The Finance Department conducts the following: Creates and signs all purchase orders, Creates the Current (Temporary and Adopted) and Capital Fund Budgets. Posts budget at the beginning of the year and does all transfers and close out procedures at year end, creating all

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pertinent resolutions to process all. Agrees receivables to tax reports, ties general ledger appropriations and reserves to budget reports, balances all Inter-Funds, keeps a Cash Flow Analysis monthly and ties all cash receipts and disbursements in entry excel books to posted reports. Keeps a Township Fixed Asset Inventory that is added to or deleted from as needed. Creates cancellation resolutions for Grants, creates Chapter 159's as needed and enters all new Grants into Edmunds. At this time there are 58 Grants open. Analyzes monies in Capital Budget to keep track of when a BAN sale is needed and when needed to roll into Bonds, creates Supplemental Debt Statements, creates cancellation resolutions when needed, inputs capital charge-backs, creates and signs all Certificates of Availability of Funds and enters all new Capital Ordinances into Edmunds. At this time there are 43 open Ordinances. All aspects of Payroll Processing. The Township has an Aa3 rating due to Moody's changing their rating methodology. New Jersey, as a whole, was hit badly with this new methodology since they now place more weight on Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits burdens, things that NJ is incapable of changing. The Township is still in the "Aa category." The Township maintained its MIG1 rating on its notes (short term financing) which is the highest rating offered by Moody's. In addition, the Township maintained its bond rating from Standard & Poor's of an AA. The Finance Department's salary and wage and operating budget decreased by 8% as a result of staffing changes.

Data Processing (IT)

In 2022 the IT Department worked on/completed the following projects: Implemented and trained employees on a new Employee Self Service/time & attendance/payroll/HR system - UKG Ready. Began replacement of our old camera recording systems at Town Hall & parks. Completed wiring for phones, computers, fax and door access control for Police Department renovations in the Operations Division. Started the necessary wiring at the Aurora First Aid building for Senior Services and EMS. Replaced/deployed over 65 desktop computers, 38 laptops, 32 tablets and 30 cellular devices. Installed 70 CradlePoint devices in Police cars to provide better, more reliable connectivity for the installed laptops. Deployed CrewForce on iPads for EMS - CrewForce is an app installed on new iPads which gives them access to call/incident data, directions and reporting. These \$800 iPads are replacing the \$5,000 ToughBooks we used to buy for the Ambulances. Replaced our Police Call Recording System. Replaced the Township's internet firewall appliance. Deployed new Body Worn Camera Server and fielded 3,140 Help Desk Tickets For 2023, they plan to: Continue deployment of additional cameras to Windward Beach, Ocean Beach I & III, Pinewood Park, Bayside Park and Town Hall. Continue replacement of older Camera Recording Servers to new Axis Camera Station. Replace/Deploy over 100 new desktop computers and 30 laptops. Add 16 additional doors to our access control "fob" system, including doors in the new Aurora building. Deploying new Help Desk/Inventory system. Deploying KnowBe4 Training system for all Full-Time Employees. Implementing UKG Telestaff scheduling system for Dispatch, EMS and Police Department Officers. Replace UPS Battery Backups systems in the IT Department and Phone Room which supply power to 90% of all servers and networking equipment. Begin running wire and setting up a network, PC's, phones, Wi-Fi and security cameras for the New Police Ops Building behind Town Hall.

Tax Collector

During 2022, the Tax Collector's Office collected more than \$255 million in payments through the office, more than \$2 million in cash, \$123 million in checks and \$131 million in electronic payments. In addition to regular collections, we sent out nearly 11,000 delinquent notices, completed more than 2,500 Senior Tax Freeze applications, handled more than 15,600 phone calls, processed \$322,000 in tax appeals and collected nearly \$1,500 in property maintenance fees. The salary and wage line item has decreased as a result a retirement and a new hire. The Operating/ Expense budget decreased .07%.

Tax Assessor

The Tax Assessor's Office with a staff of six oversees almost 32,000 residential and 800 commercial properties with a total assessed value of over \$10.5 billion dollars. Last year they placed more than \$71 million of added assessed value on our tax list. Part of their responsibilities includes not only maintaining a record of specifics about a property, but also monitoring any deed recordings to assure that any changes in ownership are made in our public record. Implementing any changes to the tax maps is also the duty of the Tax Assessor's office. Brick Township has approximately 2,900 residents receiving Senior Citizen or Veteran property tax deductions which they also manage on behalf of the Division of Taxation on a yearly basis. The salary and wage budget for the Tax Assessor budget decreased 20% with a staff vacancy while the operating budget for 2023 was reduced by 24% in the expert services line.

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Seniors

The Brick Senior Services office is staffed with 4 full time outreach workers, 2 part time employees and 1 program director. Their main focus is providing advocacy, information and assistance applying to various state benefit service programs. Staff conducts in-person evaluations in the office or at someone's home to determine eligibility for these social service programs. Full time staff are certified State Health Insurance Counselors providing counseling on Medicare issues. Brick Senior Services provides outreach services to assess the needs of our elderly population caregivers and assist in the coordination of services needed. Advocacy is provided when necessary. Activities and programs are offered at the Activity Center to provide opportunities related to socialization, physical health, education and nutrition. Transportation services are provided for food shopping, medical appointments, back and forth to the senior center for classes and activities. and to access services. New this year is the community cafe and nutrition program, and soon we will start the dialysis transportation program. We are most excited in the coming year to our move to the new senior center at Aurora Drive. The move to the site at Aurora Drive will eliminate the rental expense for use of the VFW facility. In terms of revenue, for 2023 Brick Senior Services has been awarded \$165,500 in grant funding available through the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders to deliver our program. Brick Township has also been awarded \$200,000 in funds for the dialysis transportation program from the US Department of Health and Human Services. Donations in 2022 totaled \$13,677.00 and with the generosity of sponsorships from local businesses we are able to offset some of our expenses for programs offered.

Municipal Court

The Brick Municipal Court is the 2nd largest of the 33 Municipal Courts in Ocean County. Annual filings for 2022 were 10,972 which is a decrease from 2021 of 1,946 filings. This number consists of filings not only from the Brick Police Department, but also State Police, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Weights and Measures, Marine Police, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Zoning, Building and private citizens for any incidents occurring in the Jurisdiction of Brick Township. Court sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at 9 am & 11 am, currently the first and third Wednesday, the fourth Thursday and the second Monday of each month are in-person court sessions. In addition, we hold an in-person mediation session the second Tuesday of each month at 9 am. The second Monday 9:30 am court session is for Code Enforcement violations only. The current staff consists of the Court Administrator, 2 Deputy Court Administrators, 4 additional full-time staff members and one part-timer. \$19,640.00 is being requested for our 2023 Operating and Expense Budget. This is a \$2,960.00 increase from last year. This is due to an increase in Expert Services and anticipated expenses for language interpreters.

This concluded the Business Administrator's report and she asked if any members of the Council or public that would like to go into more detail on these budgets are welcome to make an appointment with my office. Thank you again for all of your support and special thanks for the department and division heads who work so well serving the public.

Police Department – David Forrester, Police Chief

The Department of Public Safety is comprised of several areas of responsibility. In addition to Police Services, the Department is also responsible for the management of Communication Operators (Dispatchers), Class 1 Special Law Enforcement Officers, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Crossing Guards and a number of community-oriented programs such as the Police Cadets, DARE program, Not Even Once Program, Lead & Seed, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Neighborhood Watch, as well as a number of other programs which are designed to bring our department and the community closer together. The department is currently staffed with 271 employees. That includes 141 sworn officers, 23 full-time and 4 part-time communications operators, 28 full-time and 23 part-time EMS personnel, 16 crossing guards, 15 Class 1 Special Police Officers, 1 civilian Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, 1 radio technician, 1 fleet maintenance worker, and 13 full-time and 5 part-time civilian staff in police records and administrative roles. Part-time staff members are used to support the full-time staff members as well as to reduce overtime costs. In 2022 there were 94,807 calls for service. This included 1,610 fire calls and 10,998 EMS calls. As you know in 2020 we were faced with a unique set of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effects continued into 2021 and 2022, negatively impacting the health of our staff. COVID-19 positive cases made it difficult to maintain proper staffing levels which resulted

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in increased costs, specifically in the area of overtime. Despite the challenges, our Department continues to handle the crisis professionally and tirelessly, and despite the risks, our officers are doing whatever is required to serve the residents of Brick Township. We continue to do what is necessary to reduce the need for overtime whenever possible. I will go through the Department's budget and highlight any significant changes. Some adjustments were made taking into consideration the previous year's spending or necessary expenditures. **Police** - The salaries of our civilian and administrative personnel are also included in this line item. This year the regular salary request is \$21,458,770 and overtime request is \$1,250,000. In 2022 we budgeted \$1,150,000 for police overtime and spent \$1,229,102, which is \$79,102 over budget. It should be noted that our department incurred unanticipated costs throughout the year associated with four large scale events: Animal Cruelty/Hoarding case of \$27,934, January '22 Snow Storm of \$27,213, a SERT callout for an intoxicated individual with a gun \$13,945, and COVID-19 related staffing costs of \$40,415. These four events totaled \$109,507 in overtime. Although I do not anticipate a significant increase in overtime spending this year, I need to plan for unforeseen situations in which I just described. Despite the unanticipated events and COVID-19 expenses our department has faced, we managed to remain well under budget for the past five out of six years. The police supervision and command staff will continue to be conscientious of the need to reduce and keep overtime costs under budget. The police general operating budget includes uniforms, firearms equipment, training, accreditation, boat and bike equipment, and radio repair expenses. In 2022 the budget was \$247,500. Of that budget we expended \$244,309 which is \$3,191 less than budgeted. This year we are asking for \$246,250, a decrease of \$1,250. **Class 1 Special Law Enforcement Officers** - We currently have 15 Class 1 special officers who perform year-round parking enforcement, traffic details, booking officers, Municipal Court security officers and security for in-person Township meetings such as the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, and Council meetings. In 2022 we allocated \$340,000 in salaries and spent \$271,066. In 2023 we are asking for \$300,000. The overtime budgeted in 2022 was \$10,000 of which we spent \$6,616. In 2023 we will be allocating \$10,000 for overtime. One other line item in the Class 1 Special Law Enforcement Officers budget is for uniforms and equipment. In 2022 we allocated \$9,000 for uniforms and equipment, and in 2023 we are requesting \$9,500 in anticipation of hiring additional officers, bringing us to a full complement. **Communication Operators (Dispatchers)** - In 2022, \$1,695,000 was allocated for salaries and we spent \$1,398,423. This year we are requesting \$1,714,000 for salaries in anticipation of hiring additional dispatchers. In 2022 we budgeted \$250,000 for overtime and we spent \$215,257 which was \$34,743 less than what was budgeted. In 2023 we will be allocating \$250,000 for overtime and \$6,100 for Operating expenses, which mainly covers training costs. **Emergency Management** - Last year we budgeted \$60,000 for OEM salaries. This year we will be allocating \$63,270. It should be noted that a portion of the salary is paid for by grant monies which are received at different times throughout the year. In 2022 we budgeted \$500 for OEM overtime of which none was spent. In 2023 the OEM overtime budget will be eliminated. The only other item in the OEM budget is \$500 to be used for training which will remain the same. **Police Cadets** - This program currently has 16 participants who are overseen by two of our officers who are the program counselors. It gives children ages 14 to 18 from our community an opportunity to interact with the police in a positive way while at the same time giving them a chance to see if they may want to pursue a career in law enforcement. In 2022 we budgeted \$3,000 of which \$2,399 was spent. The budgeted amount this year will remain the same at \$3,000. Those monies are used for expenses such as annual dues, uniforms, competitions and costs associated with police camp. **Police Vehicles** - These monies are used to replace aging vehicles which are used by the patrol division. In most cases, the older patrol vehicles, which are still serviceable, are repurposed in non-patrol units within the department. In 2022 we budgeted \$331,750 and spent \$327,140. For 2023 the requested amount is \$399,750, a \$68,000 increase from 2022, due to price increases of the vehicles and equipment. The equipment installation cost has also increased. **Emergency Medical Services** - Last year, we budgeted \$2,225,000 for salaries and \$250,000 for overtime. This year we are asking that \$2,414,973 be budgeted for salaries and \$265,000 for overtime. The EMS operating budget was \$286,800. Of that amount \$236,585 was spent, which is \$50,215 less than what was budgeted. This year we are asking that \$320,100 be budgeted, which is a \$33,300 increase. The increase is in anticipation of a rise in costs associated with medical supplies, protective clothing and maintenance contracts. **Crossing guards** - Last year we budgeted \$480,000 in

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crossing guard salaries and \$5,000 for overtime. In 2023 we are asking for \$490,000 be budgeted for salaries and \$5,000 for overtime. For the operating budget, we are asking for \$14,600 for uniforms and safety equipment. This is a \$3,453 increase from last year, due to our need to hire two new crossing guards and for the replacement of traffic vests, jackets, lighted batons and cones. That concludes the budget presentation for Brick Township Police Department. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor, members of the Council and the business administrator for your continued support. Without your support we wouldn't be one of the best departments in the nation. This administration has always made sure that we have the resources necessary to do our job. I would also like to thank the men and women of my department who work hard each and every day to keep our residents safe.

Council President deJong opened to council and public for questions regarding the budget presentations.

There were none from the council.

Vic Fanelli, thanked Chief Forrester for his presentation. He asked for the number of officers and had numerous questions related to their budget with regards to staffing and overtime specifically the animal hoarding case.

Chief Forrester and Business Administrator Bergin advised they are down four officers and there is a need to hire additional dispatchers due to turnaround of the stressful job. With regards to the animal hoarding case, it involved a lot of manpower. 181 crates needed to be removed from the home and was an active crime scent and public health hazard.

Attorney Starkey added that they would be seeking reimbursement from the sentencing as they are being prosecuted.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Council Vice President Zapcic to adopt the following Resolutions:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Recognize Patrolman Kris DeMarco Officer of the Year Award Recipient

Councilman Minichino stated this resolution recognizes Brian Gordon as the recipient of the Kristopher DeMarco Officer of the Year Award. Officer Gordon currently serves as a Patrolman on the afternoon shift, where, as a Field Training Officer, he is tasked with training new officers with the requirements and demands of the job. In addition to his role as a Patrolman and Field Training Officer, Officer Gordon is also a member of the Department's Special Emergency Response Team. Officer Gordon will receive this award at the PBA Awards Dinner later this month.

Recognize Lt. Thomas McNelis Award Recipient.

Councilwoman Pontoriero said this resolution recognizes Detective Ryan Talty as the recipient of the Lt. Thomas McNelis Leadership and Achievement Award. Detective Talty is the Department's counter-terrorism liaison and is a member of the Special Emergency Response Team. Detective Talty's dedication, commitment and professionalism was previously recognized when he was named Officer of the Year by PBA Local 230 in 2014. Detective Talty will receive this award at the PBA Awards Dinner later this month.

Urge State to Restore School Funding to Support Brick Township Schools & Students

Mayor Crate advised this resolution demands that Governor Murphy and the State Legislature take immediate action to restore school funding to Brick Schools that will enable the continuation of a "world-class education" for the students. Last week they received word that State Aid funding for Brick Schools will be cut by \$2.54 million. This cut is on top of the \$4.7 million in funding that was cut last year.

Authorize Award of Contract – Mobile Ice Cream Truck

Council Vice President Zapcic stated this resolution authorizes an award of contract in the amount of \$3,500.00 to Cool Concessions, LLC, for exclusive rights as the mobile ice cream truck vendor at Township parks. The award is for one year. Bid notices were provided to 11 prospective bidders from the bidder's list and 5 picked up bid packages. One bid was received.

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Authorize Award Contract Through the Educational Services Commission of NJ Cooperative Pricing System – Installation of Plumbing System at Aurora Place

Council President deJong said this resolution authorizes an award of contract to Magic Touch Construction, in the amount of \$272,192.22 for the installation of a plumbing system at the new Senior Center located on Aurora Place. This contract is being awarded through a cooperative purchasing agreement with the Educational Services Commission of NJ.

Authorize Change Order #2 – Police Dept. Special Operations Garage

Councilman Ambrosino advised this resolution authorizes a change order increase in the amount of \$39,936.91 for the movement of circuits over to auxiliary power so EMS vehicles can be charged during a power outage, movement of wall packs to the rear of the building to eliminate glare towards the municipal building, installation of a new circuit for the Plymovent system and installation of new concrete curb for safety.

Authorize Participation in the New Jersey Coastal Coalition (NJCC)

Councilman Minichino stated this resolution authorizes participation in the New Jersey Coastal Coalition, whose mission is to build more resilient communities at the Jersey Shore by developing policies and practices that will anticipate future concerns and to create solutions. Participation in the New Jersey Coastal Coalition provides the Township with networking and shared resource opportunities, which can better prepare the Township and its residents for future flood events. Participation is at no cost to the Township.

Authorize Shared Services Agreement with County of Ocean – FY23 Sheriff's Traffic Enforcement Program Grant

Councilman Ambrosino explained this resolution authorizes a shared services agreement with the County of Ocean for the FY23 Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Program. Participation in this grant program will allow the Township to be reimbursed for overtime expenses incurred by the Police Department at an hourly rate not to exceed \$70 per hour for traffic enforcement activities.

Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement with County of Ocean – Construction of a Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction Project

Council Vice President Zapcic advised this resolution authorizes an intergovernmental agreement with the County of Ocean to cover Brick Township's \$486,236.11 share of the estimated beach nourishment costs. The County will pay the funds directly to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Authorize Renewal of Mobile Home Park License – JSM @Martin Blvd., LLC Mobile Home Park.

Councilwoman Pontoriero said this resolution authorizes the renewal of a mobile home park license to JSM @ Martin Boulevard, LLC, for the mobile home park located at Route 88 and Jack Martin Boulevard.

Authorize Plenary Liquor Licenses

Councilman Albanese advised of the following:

- a. New Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License – Barnegat Bayside Services LLC for premises located at 5 Mantoloking Road, Brick.
- b. Place to Place Transfer Plenary Retail Consumption License – ZMRA LLC t/a Mantoloking Road Alehouse. This resolution allows for the approved outdoor patio area to be included in the license.

Bond Releases/Reductions

Clerk Iannarone advised of the following:

- a. Inspection Fund Release – Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 – Folsom Fire House on Jordan Road in the amount of \$4,173.08.
- b. Maintenance Bond Release – Starbucks, Brick Boulevard, in the amount of \$20,625.00.

Tax Collector

Business Administrator Bergin advised of the following:

- a. Tax Overpayment 2023 – Block 36, Lot 18 in the amount of \$417.97.
- b. Tax Overpayments 2018, 2019 & 2020 State Appeals – Block 924, Lot 7 which totals \$41,652.00 for the three-year period.

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Council President opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

Dr. Farrell, Superintendent of Brick Schools along with five school board members thanked the council for their support with the resolution. He stated the Brick has been on the losing side of Senate Bill 2 (S2) and the State Aid has been cut by 49% - 23 million dollars. Other districts in Ocean County are having similar issues and an equitable solution is needed so the students are not left behind.

Vic Fanelli questioned the new liquor license and why its been inactive since 2016. He said someone else could have been using it.

Council President deJong replied that they purchased it and owned it.

Vic Fanelli asked about the S2 resolution and that if they have been passing resolutions and they are not working, then maybe they need to do something else. He said that tax breaks should not have been given to the Sports Dome and they should not have saved Breton Woods because they lost tax dollars and it impacts the schools.

Mayor Crate explained the resolution is a call for action and to get the word out to the members of the community.

John Sluka agreed with loss of taxes for the schools with the PILOT payment approved for the Sports Dome.

Charlie Bacon complimented the Superintendent for attending the meeting tonight. He asked the council if the school board was consulted prior to writing the resolution about the school aid. He noted that S2 has been in effect for 14 months and this is the first resolution the council has done. He also suggested the resolution be rewritten to be a more powerful document and include the facts presented by the Superintendent. He added that COVID-19 has already had negative impact with lower test scores.

There being no further comments, Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

Authorize Appointment of Council Member

Council President deJong asked Attorney Starkey to explain the Municipal Vacancy Law.

Attorney Starkey advised that when Mayor Crate was appointment Mayor, it created a vacancy on the council. The Democratic Municipal Committee had to present three names to the Clerk and Council to fulfill the position until the November election.

Council President deJong advised of the three names: Erica Demaio, Melissa Travers and Emma Mammano.

Councilman Minichino nominated Melissa Travers.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to appoint Melissa Travers to fill the vacancy on the Township Council.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution.

Motion by Councilman Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Minichino to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call. Councilman Minichino abstained on the Teamsters.

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2023 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$10,901,166.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Albanese to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2023 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,915,179.64.

Ordinance on First Reading: Amending Chapter 324, Peddling & Soliciting

Clerk Iannarone read the Title of the Ordinance into the Record.

Councilman Minichino explained the Township Council's Land Use and Business & Finance Committees are recommending amending to this ordinance to allow for 10 Class 2 food trucks in the Township. Class 2 licenses allow food trucks to stay in one location for up to 12 hours. The number of food trucks in this category was previously limited to 7. These food trucks can only be parked where they have property owner's permission and require approval by Traffic Safety, Code Enforcement and Zoning. There are three trucks on the wait list at this time. However, if an inquiry comes from a veteran (who must produce a County-issued veteran ID card) he/she would be granted automatic approval. None of these trucks have approval to be on Township property because there are agreements with vendors for Township events.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and Seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to adopt the following Ordinance on First Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK IN CHAPTER 324, "PEDDLING AND SOLICITING"

Ordinance on First Reading: Authorize Acceptance of Donation of Property, Block 673, Lot 44.

Clerk Iannarone reads the Title of the Ordinance into the Record.

Council Vice President Zapcic advised the Township Council's Land Use Committee is recommending accepting the donation of this property. The owners of Block 673, Lot 44 reached out to the Township to donate the parcel. It is marshland and cannot be built on. The property has the added benefit of a prime location for the re-use of dredge materials. The property is located behind Cedar Bridge Manor. It's 3.2 acres but 1/3rd of it is in the water. It will also add acreage to the open space preservation areas that enhances CRS points.

Motion by Councilman Minichino and Seconded by Council Vice President Zapcic to adopt the following Ordinance on First Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members voted AYE on Roll Call.

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 673 Lot 44 FOR NO CONSIDERATION

Ordinance on Second Reading: Amending Chapter 168 to Authorize and Establish Requirements and Fees Applicable to Municipal Dredging Permits.

Clerk Iannarone read the Title of the Ordinance into the Record.

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Councilman Ambrosino stated the Township has invested significant money into the development of a permit application (that was recently approved by the State) to allow for individual property owners to contract for dredging. This permit application saves lagoon property owners significant time and money. The table has been set for individual property owners to proceed with dredging their slips with the simple process of receiving a permit to do so from the Township Engineering Department. This ordinance establishes the requirements for a dredge permit and applicable fees.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Vic Fanelli asked why now and whether or not it had to do the dredge project in Nejecho Beach. He also asked how the fee was determined and how the dredge material would be measured.

Business Administrator Bergin explained the Township has been working on this for a long time and the need is required for private lagoons not public waterways to dredge. It gives private owners the ability to get a permit without going to the State and keeps fees minimal. The fee will offset the costs. Nejecho Beach lagoons were allowed prior and the State allowed as a pilot project but homeowners will receive a special assessment. The dredger will determine the amount of dredge and will have to provide a report to the Township.

Vic Fanelli did not understand how this would help one owner.

Business Administrator Bergin advised it enables property owners to dredge.

Council President deJong added that each community will decide based upon their needs.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilman Minichino and seconded by Council Vice President Zapcic to adopt the following Ordinance on Second and Final Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members Voted AYE on the Roll Call.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 168 TO AUTHORIZE AND ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS AND FEES APPLICABLE TO MUNICIPAL DREDGING PERMITS

Ordinance on Second Reading: Creating Chapter 277 Entitled "Mercantile Licenses"

Clerk Iannarone read the Title of the Ordinance into the Record.

Council President deJong explained in August, Governor Murphy signed into law a bill requiring all business owners and multifamily rental units to maintain certain levels of liability insurance through a Business and Insurance Registry. The new law requires that all business owners of multifamily rental units annually register a certificate of insurance with the municipality where the business or rental unit is located. The State does not make an appropriation for the cost municipalities are sure to incur to enforce its policy. A municipality is, however, authorized to charge a reasonable administrative fee for the certificate of registration. The Council's Business and Finance Committee is recommending this ordinance to ensure compliance with the State law. Committee members met with the Chamber of Commerce, who supported the need for the license at the minimal fee of \$25.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Vic Fanelli said that they are not increasing taxes but adding fees, and the Chamber of Commerce should not be representing all of the business community and \$25 for a piece of paper does not seem reasonable.

Council President deJong advised the Chamber of Commerce had over 300 business members and the Code Enforcement Office will have to process the necessary paperwork and data entry into the system. The cost will cover staff time in tracking.

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Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to adopt the following Ordinance on Second and Final Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members Voted AYE on the Roll Call.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER 277 TO BE ENTITLED "MERCANTILE LICENSES"

Council President deJong opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mary Buckley stated that no one answered Mr. Bacon's questions regarding the S-2 resolution and she was upset the council did not table it. She said the kids' education is at stake and they should have made a stronger resolution.

Art Hasselback said that he tried to attend the last meeting but it was too crowded with the cheerleaders. He wanted to express his concerns regarding the accessory buildings ordinance and wanted to know why it was not on the agenda tonight.

Business Administrator Bergin said that it needed to go before the Planning Board before second reading and she said she would email him a copy of the ordinance for his review.

John Sluka read his letter dated March 8 regarding the destruction done by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the harm it is causing the residents from the pollution. He said that he does not want the situation to get like 9-11 or the recent Ohio train crash. He also reminded the Council of the school board meeting on Thursday night and that they should attend.

Vic Fanelli stated he did not know any of the names suggested for council and whether or not it was by choice that they were all women. He also complained about the error made on the website with the agenda and backup.

Council President deJong said she was aware and the only requirements are that they would need to be over 18 years of age and a registered Democrat.

There were no further comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Ms. Bergin congratulated the PBA awards recipients.

Attorney Starkey, Clerk Iannarone, Ms. Murphy and Councilman Albanese all congratulated and welcomed the new mayor.

Mayor Crate advised that she has been meeting with staff members and attended the Senior Advisory Committee meeting and Pie (PI) Day today with the Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee. She said she will continue to meet with staff in the coming weeks. She mentioned a couple of upcoming events and that she swore in six Class 1 Special Police last week.

Councilwoman Pontoriero replied to the residents about the S-2 resolution. She stated it was more important to get the opposition out than to work on the verbiage. She added that she is a proud mom to two special needs children and the children are already behind from the COVID impact. She said this formula should not have been applied at this time. All residents need to tell Trenton this formula is unfair and needs to be changed.

Councilman Ambrosino thanked Councilwoman Pontoriero and agreed with her comments. He thanked Dr. Farrell for his support and said that he has three children in the school system and he is committed to the health of the school.

Councilman Minichino congratulated the scouts that were in attendance. He thanked the Chief and Ms. Bergin for their budget presentations and Wyatt Earp on behalf of the Meals on Wheels programs. He also congratulated the two PBA award recipients.

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Council Vice President Zapcic said that implication from the three speakers regarding S-2 is false. She said former Mayor Ducey went above and beyond to fight this. He went on a bus trip to Trenton with the schools, he sent letters and attended a series of meetings convened. She also said they were one of the towns that sued to obtain the formula that the State was not supplying.

Council President deJong advised that Senior Services will be holding a couple of workshops for seniors in April and May for financial assistance and wellness program.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Albanese to Adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Heather deJong
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk