

April 11, 2023

A meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:00 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
Councilwoman Melissa Travers
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 and followed by a moment of silence.

Motion by Councilman Albanese and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 28, 2023 Meeting and approve same.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Budget Presentations:

Division of Engineering -

Township Engineer, Elissa Commins thanked the council for their time this evening in allowing to provide a brief introduction to the engineering division and address items requested in their 2023 budget. She explained that the primary functions of the Division of Engineering are to establish and maintain public infrastructure and assist with its integration to private property. She said that they monitor the site construction and off-site improvements outside of a physical building envelope. Engineering currently employs six full time employees. The full-time staff includes one licensed professional engineer two NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) Certified Inspectors, an engineering aide/road inspector, an engineering permit/inspection clerk and a secretary. As a group, they provide professional assistance to township departments such as the DPW, In-House Construction, Traffic Safety and Parks as well as technical support for homeowners, business owners, realtors and developers. They also serve as the contact for various divisions of the NJDEP, the NJDOT and the Army Corp of Engineers. This year they anticipate the Army Corp to award a beach maintenance renourishment for the oceanfront. The office is also the designated Flood Plain Administrator, responsible for compliance with the rules and requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Based upon how well they comply with NFIP regulations and guidelines, citizens are provided a discount on their flood insurance premiums. Most of the day-to-day operation of the Division of Engineering involves interaction with the public including homeowners, business owners, contractors and licensed professionals looking for guidance with development. She said that their efforts and goals for 2023 include:

1. Implement an internal, GIS based, stormwater inspection system.
2. Maintain the Township's status within the Community Rating System (CRS) for discounted flood insurance premiums;
3. Assist residents, realtors and developers with private property development;
4. Coordinate with public works for repairs and improvements to existing infrastructure and maximizing the capital funds available to the greatest extent practical;
5. Develop a township wide dredge material management and habitat restoration masterplan; and,
6. Educate the public on flood risk and preparedness.

April 11, 2023

She explained that they have spent a lot of thought and effort over the last few years year developing procedures for better organization and standardization in the division.

- Permit input is now processed by the clerk, decreasing review time;
- Inspection reporting has been streamlined so that results are emailed to homeowners and contractors, saving time as well as postage;
- Closed permits are routinely sent to archives to scan for easy retrieval from all departments;
- Coordination with zoning and code enforcement has been organized so that policies are standardized. Citizens get consistent information and engineering violations are enforced in a consistent manner.
- They are using a GIS based app to complete stormwater inspections, to reduce time and waste associated with paper forms.

All of these things may seem small, but combined, they enable them to better assist people with their requirements, wants and needs while saving time and saving money. Engineer's salary and wage budget request for 2023 is \$220,000.00, including \$10,000 in overtime. While salaries are fixed, the actual cost to the township are estimated. The funds recouped in the budget from inspections, escrow accounts and capital accounts will vary from year to year; therefore, the actual staffing cost to the Township fluctuate annually. Overtime is something that is very difficult to estimate, as the time required is completely dependent upon the volume of work running through the division, and this work is development driven. She said that they provide inspections as requested by contractors or the administration, outside of the normal operating hours of the Township, provided the overtime hours worked can be charged to escrow projects that can be billed for the associated cost. The operating budget request is \$125,750, which is a 21 percent decrease from last year and it based on last year's actual expenses in expert services, and equipment. These funds are requested to pay for, General supplies, tools and equipment. Renewal fees to pay for our professional licenses and certifications as well as the courses that provide the continuing education credits we need to maintain them; Annual permits such as NJDEP stormwater permitting for our annual municipal permit, the industrial permit for Trader's Cove Marina, a multitude of permits for the Public Works Facility and tidelands licenses for waterfront parks and infrastructure; and, the professional services of engineers, surveyors, architects and environmentalists that need to be contracted with to complete tasks beyond the resources of in-house engineering department. Engineering's largest line item is for expert services. This is money that the department reserves to pay engineers, architects or other professionals for services that cannot be capitalized, such as surveying, flood mapping appeals, ADA compliance consultation, masterplan updates, sound studies and general traffic consultations. If services are not required, these monies are not spent. This year's request represents a decrease from prior years, as they have been able to accomplish more internally as a result of the cross-training and streamlining processes mentioned earlier. She thanked the Mayor and Council, Business Administrator and the citizens for their patience, support and active participation in all of their projects and initiatives.

Council President deJong opened to the public for questions on the Engineering budget presentation.

John Sluka questioned the number of employees, the salary line item and what the inspectors do.

Ms. Commins advised there are 6 employees and the salary request was correct. She explained that inspectors review permits and inspect all sites and commercial sites are inspected for pavement, curbing and proper drainage.

Division of Land Use -

Township Planner, Tara Paxton thanked Mayor Crate, Council President deJong and the entire governing body, as well as Business Administrator for giving Zoning Officer Christopher Romano and herself this opportunity to present the budget for the Division of Land Use. On behalf of their employees, she thanked them for the support and continued assistance they receive throughout the year. She explained that the Division

April 11, 2023

of Land Use & Planning consists of the Zoning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Board, GIS Mapping, Grant Management, Community Development and General Land Use Planning. The most notable accomplishment in 2022 included the approval of the Township's New Jersey State Plan Endorsement for two areas of the municipality as Cores and the continued approval of the CRS Class 6 rating:

- Plan Endorsement – This was a 10 (+) year review of all of their planning policies, master plan elements, ordinances and GIS mapping for consistency with the NJ State Plan. They are amongst the largest municipalities to continue this voluntary process to make them competitive with regard to grants and state funding. It has paid off as in 2022 they continued to receive grant awards and successfully administer them.
- CRS Annual Review: 58 Elevation Certificates were reviewed and submitted for accuracy by the Engineering and Land Use Staff and served as the pre-requisite to their planning efforts. The result 100% compliance – the first time this was achieved by their staff and a remarkable undertaking.

She said that they have seven full-time employees with eleven Planning Board members and nine Zoning Board members. They serve as staff to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Land Use Committee, Master Plan Committee, Environmental Commission, Architectural Review Committee, Sustainable Brick Committee (Green Team), Brick Open Space Savers (BOSS), Floodplain Management Planning Committee, serve as the ADA Coordinator, assist the Shade Tree Commission and Homes Now, Inc, who administers the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

In 2022, the division collected \$525,182.00 in Affordable Housing Fees and passed on 85 percent of the funds to Homes Now, Inc. in the contract amount of \$446,404.00. A total of 880 deed restricted units are maintained in accordance with the Fair Share Act Regulations. She said that the Division of Land Use & Planning have five main revenue sources that help to offset the cost to taxpayers for operations. They collect permits and application fees: Zoning Permit Fees, Affordable Housing Fees, Planning and Zoning Board Application Fees and Escrow Fees. The Land Use budget for salary and wages decreased by 5 percent from last year including overtime. Most overtime charges are made to the rider accounts because they are related to Planning Board and Zoning Board cases. CDBG \$65,370.00, Affordable Housing Trust Fund \$7,469.80, \$23,671.90 to the Planning Board and Zoning Board Rider Accounts, \$22,847.00 to the Planning Board and Zoning Board Escrow Accounts. These funds are not taxpayer funded, but grant funded and development fee funded which result in a savings of \$119,358.70 for a net salary expense of \$414,141.30. She said that the Land Use operating budget increased by \$27,500.00 as a result of the Expert Services line item increasing to \$60,000.00 as needed for Planning Studies, surveys, environmental assessments, appraisals and plans in preparation for Master Plan Updates, Open Space Purchases and the Green Acres Diversion.

Zoning Office -

Zoning Officer, Chris Romano advised the Zoning Office is staffed by two employees, the Zoning Officer and a Clerk. He explained that Zoning applications can range from a request to build a 90 sq. ft. shed to the development of a major shopping center. The Zoning Officer looks for consistency with Board approvals or the Zoning Code. He said that their office is involved with all development applications from the initial informal meeting requests with applicants through the permitting process. In 2022, they processed 1,608 permit applications and brought in \$103,600.00 in revenue from issuance of permits. He said that the Zoning Board of Adjustment had; 75 cases, 8 additional special hearings, \$44,750.00 in application fees, and \$198,541.19 in Escrow fees. The Planning Board had; 37 cases, 8 additional special hearings, \$52,525.00 in application fees, \$143,337.99 in Escrow fees. The GIS and data specialist work closely with the BTMUA and the Township's Consulting Surveyor to maintain the Township's Computer Mapping and manages data to create, analyze, convert and maintain terabytes of GIS data. He creates hundreds of maps detailing everything from conservation efforts to snow plow routes.

Tara Paxton explained that in 2022, the Township received the CDBG FY 2022 Grant award of \$310,817.00 and they also received \$129,200.00 in grant requests and awarded \$54,432.00 in Public Services Grants to 14 non-profit agencies that provide

April 11, 2023

services to the residents of Brick. There were 4 housing rehabilitation projects completed and administered by the Township Staff, 4 new single-family homeowner rehabilitation contracts in 2023. The CDBG COVID funds: went to 15 families through the Rental Assistance Program up to \$5,000 each administered through Homes Now, Inc. and 298 students and their families have been helped through the counseling grant to Preferred Behavioral Health. Other grants offset Capital costs by providing funding for park development, acquisition, EV stations and other recreational amenities. She said that the staff also assists other departments in NJ Dept. of Transit, Community Affairs, Environmental Protection and Federal Grants throughout the year. She thanked the mayor and council for their continued support.

Council President deJong opened to the public for questions on the Land Use budget presentation.

John Sluka asked for clarification regarding the salaries.

Council President deJong advised that the salaries are charged back but it is a moveable object.

Business Administrator Bergin further explained only Land Use and Engineering have these types of budgets.

Ms. Commins added the salary budget is the cost to the municipality.

Division of Inspections -

Dan Newman, Construction Official thanked Mayor Crate, Council members and the Business Administrator and said that he will be reporting tonight on the budget requests for The Division of Inspections. The Division of Inspections is empowered to enforce the New Jersey-adopted Uniform Construction Code as well as local ordinances relating to property maintenance, and the occupancy or re-occupancy of rental units. He explained that the Division therefore has two budgets, one dedicated to the enforcement of the Uniform Construction Code and one dedicated to Municipal Code Enforcement of the property maintenance code and rental inspections. The purpose of the Uniform Construction Code is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people; also, the Code is designed to encourage innovation in construction, including the use of modern technical methods and the elimination of obsolete construction regulations that increase the cost of construction. The number of permits issued in 2022 was 3,484, with an additional 887 permit updates. This is consistent with 2021. The total number of permits issued fluctuates based on economic and other conditions outside of our control. The number of inspections performed in 2022 was 17,923. The number of inspections also fluctuates based on economic conditions. He explained that much of the revenue from permit fees is based on the value of construction of the projects. The value of construction for 2022 was \$123,275,053. The added value of improvements made to real property effects property taxes paid to the Township. The revenue generated by permit fees was \$2,509,228. Additional revenue from items such as penalties, ongoing inspections of public swimming pools, variance applications, Certificate fees and yearly testing of backflow detection devices brought the grand total for revenue to \$2,853,799.00. The Inspection staff is made up of a Construction Official, Sub code Officials and Inspectors. Each Local Enforcement agency has one Construction Official. That individual is having chief administrative responsibility for administering and enforcing the provisions of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code. Each technical area of the code has one Subcode Official. The Subcode Official, under the direction of the Construction Official, has administrative responsibility for enforcement of their specific jurisdiction. They interpret the requirements for their Subcode, perform plan reviews prior to a permit being issued, and is the immediate supervisor of the inspectors within their Sub code. Inspectors under the direction of their Subcode Officials and Construction Official perform the inspections in the field. The staff dedicated to the Building Subcode includes a full-time Building Subcode Official and two full-time building inspectors. The staff dedicated to the Plumbing/Mechanical Subcode includes a full time Subcode Official and one full-time plumbing inspector. We had one full Plumbing Inspector retire in 2022. We have not replaced that position. I also contribute to this Sub code when needed. The staff dedicated to the Electrical Subcode includes a full-time Electrical Subcode Official and a full-time

April 11, 2023

electrical inspector. In 2022 the long-time Electrical Sub code Official retired. One of the inspectors was promoted to the Subcode Position. They did not replace him in the inspector's position. An additional inspector also retired and he was replaced. He explained that they continue to utilize the services provided through a shared service agreement with the Brick Bureau of Fire Safety to provide Fire Subcode and Inspectors services and they also have one part-time Elevator Subcode official. Clerical duties include permit application intake, data entry, inspection scheduling, shepherding the applications through the plan review process, processing any violation notices, and once approved by the subcode officials, issuing the permit. The clerical staff are the front-line staff that deals with the public and contractors on a daily basis and they do a great job. In the beginning of 2022 we had nine full time clerical staff members. Two of the clerical staff left in the middle of the year in 2022 so they added a part-time position. In 2023 they lost another full-time clerical staff member to transfer; leaving 6 full-time clerical and one part-time position. With the changes to the staffing levels the salary line item request for 2023 was reduced by 11 percent. The total operating budget request for 2023 decreased 2.9 percent. He said that this year they will have a number of challenges in enforcing the Uniform Construction Code regulations and they always work diligently to control costs, including overtime. With a reduced staff they will need to be extra diligent to ensure we properly enforce the Construction Code. He said that on September 2022 new code editions were adopted in New Jersey. This occurs every three years. This started a grace period for 6 months where the applicant could utilize the past code or the new one. Starting in March, 2023, all new applications must be submitted under the new code editions. There are significant changes to the Energy Codes as well as other changes. In addition to new code editions that State of New Jersey has passed, there is a new process for the use of third-party inspectors. In the past if the Township wished to utilize a third-party inspection agency, or inspectors from a different jurisdiction through a shared services agreement; the entire Subcode would need to be turned over to third party. The new law allows third party agencies to be utilized in a limit basis, for added help on one job or utilizing one inspector. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has until October to create regulations to implement this new law. The State of New Jersey has also directed the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to create regulations for the acceptance of electronic applications. Presently application must be submitted on NJDCA standard forms with a "wet ink" signature. NJDCA has until the end of the year to implement new regulations on the processes and procedures necessary to allow full electronic submittals, including electronic plans. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has been reviewing all aspects of the Construction Codes. They have reinterpreted many items regarding what is required for a permit. Some of their changes may have an effect on their processes for enforcement. Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance/Rental Inspections - The purpose of the municipal codes is to protect the quality of life of the residents, and ensure property owners provide safe housing when their units are rented. The code enforcement staff includes 3 full-time inspectors and supervisory help is provided by an acting Code Enforcement Supervisor. In addition, one staff member has dual duties of performing clerical functions as well as rental inspections and one code enforcement officer does work in Mantoloking through a Shared Service agreement. The Township is fully reimbursed for those costs. One Code Enforcement officer does investigations during weekend hours and they share evening shifts for light pollution and short-term rental complaints. The idea is for code enforcement to be accessible and available for weekend complaints, which occur frequently. Saturday Code Enforcement hours does not generate overtime. Rental inspections were conducted on 563 properties and 110 inspections were also conducted as re-inspections due to deficiencies discovered when the initial inspections were conducted. The total number of inspections was 673 with revenue of \$92,850.00. The inspectors also investigate properties based on complaints or spot checks of known problem properties. These inspections generated 1,599 notices for violations of the municipal code. 1482 have been closed. 117 remain open. 58 have been issued summons to appear in municipal court. The Property Maintenance Review Board is an active body that meets monthly with few exceptions. Their work remains essential as the Township works to ensure the property maintenance code is followed both for safety reasons and the overall aesthetics of the neighborhoods. The staff works diligently to prepare cases to be presented to the board, make factual findings, and then implement the Board's orders. Individuals that respond to Code Enforcement violations or respond to orders of the Municipal Court Judge generally are not summoned to appear before the Property Maintenance Review Board.

April 11, 2023

The 2023 request for Operating & Expenses is relatively consistent with 2022. The request for the 2022 budget was \$151,650. The request for 2023 is \$152,680. Overtime costs for 2022 totaled \$530.29. He explained Challenges for 2023: New Laws: The State of New Jersey has passed new laws that will affect Code Enforcement. • The state has now mandated that dwellings built before 1978 that are rented to be inspected for possible lead hazards. At the present time Brick would only need to conduct visual inspections. However, the law does have triggers that would require additional testing and/or remediation. Properties that are required to be registered with the State, like large apartment complexes are exempt; they are already check for lead by the State. The State has also passed a law that requires the Township to collect proof of liability insurance for every business and most rental units. If a rental is four or fewer units and one is owner occupied, the owner must show proof of \$300,000 worth of coverage; otherwise \$500,000 worth of coverage is required. The Township has passed a requirement that all of these properties provide a copy of their insurance, and once submitted, a Mercantile License will be issued. The State requires the Township to: Educate business owners and renters about the policy and their responsibilities, collect a copy of the insurance, Issue violations for businesses or property owners that do not comply with the regulations. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to present the budget requests and said that he looks forward to another year of supporting and assisting the residents.

Council President deJong opened to the public for questions on the Inspections budget presentation.

Nan Coll commended all three employees for their presentations and asked about the shared services agreements and giving access to the code book.

Mr. Newman replied after 2008 they had a shared services agreement with Toms River but after Sandy they could not keep up. Previously having access to codes, you'd have to go to the library, now they are all on-line and the code is Statewide. The application process is changing to electronically by the end of the year. There will be more flexibility to use inspectors from other towns also.

Nan Coll also requested additional time to obtain the information she's requesting.

Attorney Starkey explained that the purpose of the five-minute rule is provide for orderly meetings. The public can contact Mr. Newman during work hours also. This is an independent body and governed by Robert Rules.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to adopt the following Resolutions:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Authorize Appointment of Municipal Utilities Authority Commissioner

Councilman Ambrosino stated this resolution authorizes the appointment of William Neafsey to the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority for a five-year term effective April 11, 2023 and expiring on January 31, 2028.

Authorize Award of Bid – SummerFest Food Truck Vendors

Councilman Minichino advised this resolution authorizes the award of bid for Summerfest food truck vendors:

- Category 1 hot food (sausage sandwiches and cheesesteak), Big Blue Wrap and Roll;
- Category 2 grilled/fried items, Dellano Food Services;
- Category 3, ice cream, Piper's Treats;
- Category 4 specialty (funnel cakes, fried Oreos and Butterfly fries), John & Debbie O's Concessions
- Category 4 specialty (Italian mozzarella donuts, Italian nachos, fettucine bread pockets), Caldino's
- Category 4 specialty (surf & turf) Highway 2 Ohana

April 11, 2023

Bid notices were provided to 106 prospective bidders from the bidder's list and 14 picked up bid packages. Ten bids were received, with the award going to the highest bidder in each category.

Authorize Award of Bid – Firework Exhibitions

Council Vice President Zapcic stated this resolution authorizes an award of bid for fireworks exhibitions to Schaefer Fireworks in the amount of \$26,040.00, a cost of \$5,208.00 for the Summerfest Concert series and Fall Fest. Bid notices were provided to 12 prospective bidders from the bidders list and six vendors picked up packages. One bid was received.

Authorize Award of Bid – Beer & Wine Garden Concession

Councilman Albanese advised this resolution authorizes an award of bid for the annual beer and wine concession to Windward Tavern in the amount of \$9,100.00. The beer and wine concession is for the 2023 summer season. Bid notices were provided to 25 prospective bidders and three submitted bid packages. Windward Tavern provided the highest responsive, responsible bid.

Authorize Award of Contract – Cedar Bridge Manor Park Improvements

Council Vice President Zapcic was pleased to present this resolution as it authorizes the award of contract in the amount of \$465,412.00 to Robbie Lane Enterprises for Cedar Bridge Manor Park improvements. Six bids were received with bids ranging the high bid of \$572,385.00 to the lowest responsive, responsible bid of \$465,412.00. The Township has all of the necessary permits to proceed with this project. The project includes shoreline restoration, specifically rip-rap stabilization edge with vegetation mulch, much like was done at Bay Harbor Beach. The project also includes a playground equipment, exercise equipment, a kayak launch, walkway and a bike rack.

Authorize Purchase Over Bid Threshold – Microsurfacing of Various Township Roads

Councilwoman Travers explained this resolution authorizes the Township to exceed the bid threshold by going with a State contract vendor for the 2023 micro surfacing project for various township roadways. The contract is being awarded to Asphalt Paving System in the amount of \$129,576.70. Roads scheduled for microsurfacing under this contract include a portion of Lakewood Gardens, specifically, Albert Cucci Drive, Frank Neri Drive, Bedford Avenue, Wren Avenue, John McGuckin Drive and Joseph Byrne Drive. Microsurfacing is a pavement preservation and maintenance treatment for roadways. It is made and applied by a specialized machine that mixes the materials on site and spreads them over the existing pavement. Typically, microsurfacing extends the pavement life up to 10 years or longer. It cures quickly and allows traffic within one hour in most cases.

Authorize Purchase Over Bid Threshold – Installation of Bike & Scooter Park at Drum Point Sports Complex

Councilwoman Pontoriero stated this resolution authorizes the Township to exceed the bid threshold by going with a State contract vendor for the installation of a bike and scooter park at Drum Point Sports Complex. The contract is being awarded to American Ramp Company in the amount of \$418,036.14.

Authorize Award of Contract through Stafford Township Cooperative Pricing System – Automotive Parts, Supplies & Repairs.

Councilman Minichino advised this resolution authorizes the award of contract for automotive parts, supplies and repairs to the following vendors:

- Barlow Automotive, Manahawkin
- Beach Haven Automotive, Ship Bottom
- Bergey's Trucks, Hamilton
- J-Bolts Industrial Supplies, Glenolden, PA
- Downs Ford, Toms River
- Freehold Ford, Freehold
- Gabrielle Kenworth, Dayton, NJ
- Gentilini Ford, Woodbine
- GranTurk Equipment, Bridgeport, PA
- Auto Parts Connection, Mount Holly, and
- Midwest Motor Supply, Columbus, OH

This contract is being awarded through the Stafford Township Cooperative Pricing System. This is an open-ended contract not to exceed \$100,000 per year.

Authorize Execution of Storm Drainage Easement with JCP&L – Block 1060.12, Lot 1

Councilman Ambrosino stated this resolution authorizes the execution of a storm drainage easement for 133 Harding Drive, which benefits the Township of Brick as needed to maintain infrastructure. The Township Engineer has been working with First Energy/JCP&L to secure this storm drainage easement in Point Pleasant Manor.

April 11, 2023

Authorize Special Event Permit – American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event

Councilwoman Travers advised this resolution authorizes a special event permit for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life from 5 pm to 11 pm on Friday, May 19, 2023 at Windward Beach Park.

Bond Releases/Reductions: Clerk Iannarone advised of the following:
Inspection Fund Release – Solid Gold Realty in the amount of \$1,705.56

Authorize Waiver of Section Chapter 110-5 of the Township Code to Allow Dogs at the Farmer's Market

Councilwoman Zapcic advised this resolution was reviewed and approved by the Council's Recreation Committee. It allows dog owners to bring their canine companions with them to the Farmer's Market, held each Saturday from May through September at Windward Beach Park. Dogs will be allowed in park as long as they're leashed and their owners clean up after them as needed. Over the years, responsible dog owners have expressed dismay at not being allowed to bring their dogs to the Market and the staff requested the Committee consider this exemption. This is being done by resolution so they can see how it goes this season and if all goes well they will continue.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Sam Foster asked for clarification on allowing dogs at the Farmer's Market and whether it was for service dogs only. He also asked if they contacted the Heath Department to allow dogs near food items.

Council President deJong said it would allow all dogs and is only on a trial basis.

Nan Coll asked what the purpose of the meeting is and that the public should be able to comment on the resolutions. She suggested holding caucus and public meetings.

Council President deJong advised this is the open portion for the public to comment on the Resolutions and asked Ms. Coll to be seated.

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

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2023 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,189,715.24

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

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2023 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,780,951.32

Ordinance on Second Reading: Cap Rate Ordinance

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

Council Vice President Zapcic explained this ordinance allows the Township to establish a cap bank for future use. The ordinance allows for increases for budget appropriations, and allows the Township to bank any unused monetary room. This cap bank ordinance allows the Township to increase budget appropriations by 3.5 percent over the prior year's appropriations and to bank any unused appropriation room for the next two succeeding years. This ordinance is simply precautionary. It is not funded through a tax increase, since it is only used in subsequent years should they need to fund a one-time expenditure. The monies available by this cap rate index

April 11, 2023

ordinance may be used to offset costs of any future disasters and the need for any future emergency appropriation. It is not generating cash, it is creating the ability to raise money should it be needed in an emergency. If the funds are not needed in the succeeding two years the bank is simply dissolved.

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Vic Fanelli asked how is this different from reserve fund and why is this needed.

Business Administrator Bergin explained reserves are actually money, this is a cap bank and Allows us to raise monies if it is needed. The last time it was used was after Superstorm Sandy.

There were no further comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to adopt the following Ordinance on Second Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:
All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL
BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP
BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

John Sluka read his letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the British Journal of Nursing concerning air pollution. More than 7 million have died from air pollution, more than COVID-19 based on the Royal Health Organization. He stated the New Jersey Turnpike Authority is too greedy to fix the unhealthy areas in Brick caused by their extension project.

Nan Coll questioned the triangular piece of property near Old Squan on Route 88 near St. Dominics Church that the ground was toxic. She hasn't heard anyone about it but noticed a little sprucing up but asked for an update in the property. She said she will not get the information so will sit down but noted she supports John Sluka.

Council President deJong replied regarding that property it is public property and they have not been apprised of any updates.

There were no further comments from the public.

Michele Spector of Evergreen Woods read an abridged letter that she is trying to get published regarding the Parkway extension. They were only told that some trees would be cut but they were not made aware of the second project. The highway decibels have been breached reaching 82 decibels 24/7. Sleep is disrupted with the constant noise. Evergreen Woods has been disqualified for a sound wall for various reasons. Since an access road was installed by Cherrywood Farms, they got a wall. NJTA said the road did not move closer and did not affect enough residents to justify and the cost cannot exceed \$50,000 per resident. Agencies involved advised of detention basins but they do not work. Trees were cleared and some replanted with a berm. Other Brick communities were also affected. Families have endured this since 2010. They have asked Senator Holzapfel for funding and are asking the Council to assist. They have also created a GoFundMe Me to raise monies for a sound wall.

Sam Foster said that a couple of meetings ago Councilwoman Zapcic was upset when people were complaining about the schools' budget cuts and said she did not see people at the meetings at that time. He said people cannot always make meetings because they work because taxes have been increasing. He said citizens have the right to criticize their elected officials.

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

Business Administrator Bergin thanked the staff that presented their budgets.

April 11, 2023

Mayor Crate also thanked the staff for their budget presentations. She said she hosted her first Crate Conversations with the Brick Garden Club President. She said they meet once of month at the Cultural Arts Center. They take care of the plantings around town. She said residents can register for municipal updates on the website. She met with the BMHS and the Brick Women's Club to plant pinwheels at the school and presented a proclamation proclaiming April Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. Students at BTHS also planted pinwheels with the Women's Club. She had the opportunity to host a luncheon for the Township Clergy today. It was great conversation and had the opportunity to see what they are doing within their congregations and offered to volunteer with them as well. Tomorrow she will be delivering Meals on Wheels to residents in that program and attending a meeting with Chamber of Commerce. Last week she attended the Grand Re-Opening of the new Wawa on Lanes Mill Road and participated in a friendly hoagie building competition between the police and fire departments. She worked in a Wawa while in college so felt she an advantage. The police won the competition but Wawa donated \$1,000 to each organization. The PBA is hosting their basketball fundraiser on April 27th at Lake Riviera Middle School to raise funds for two families in Brick.

Councilman Albanese thanked Ms. Commins, Mr. Newman, Ms. Paxton and Mr. Romano for their budget presentations.

Councilwoman Pontoriero also thanked Mrs. Bergin for her efforts. She was extraordinarily impressed by the stellar job by all to keep the budget low.

Councilman Ambrosino, Councilman Minichino and Councilwoman Travers also thanked the department heads for their budget presentations.

Council Vice President Zapcic also thanked all for their budget presentations. She said they are the busiest departments and she refers residents to them a lot. She said they did a great job and thanked Mrs. Bergin for coordinating it all.

Council President deJong thanked everyone as well. She mentioned upcoming senior programs and workshops and said that residents should register with Senior Services.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Albanese to Adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Heather deJong
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk