

April 25, 2023

A meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order at 7:03 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](http://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 followed by a moment of silence.

The Council accepted the Reports from Municipal Officers and Council President deJong asked Clerk Iannarone to file.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the April 11, 2023 Meeting and approve same.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

**Presentations:**

**Dottie LaPosa – Shade Tree Commission**

Mayor Crate presented Dottie LaPosa with a Mayor's Proclamation for her many years of volunteer work with the Township of Brick. Mrs. LaPosa served on the Shade Tree Commission for approximately 40 years and now is retiring from her position. The Shade Tree Commission, the Green Team and members of her family were all present.

**National Library Week – April 23 -29, 2023**

Mayor Crate presented Brick Library Branch Manager Taya Petino with a Mayor's Proclamation honoring National Library Week during the week of April 23 – 29, 2023. This year's theme is "There's More to the Story" and Mayor Crate urged citizens to visit the library. Ms. Petino thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing National Library Week and advised of the many programs the library offers.

**February & March 2023 High School Students of the Month**

Council Vice President Zapcic presented certificates on behalf of Mayor Crate and the Council to three students of the month in attendance. She congratulated them on their outstanding academic achievements and thanked them for attending the council meeting. Those present were: BMHS 10<sup>th</sup> Grader Stephanie Trujillano – March 2023; BTHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grader Keira Jacobs – February 2023 and BTHS 12<sup>th</sup> Grader Allison Buzinkai – March 2023.

**National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 9 – 15, 2023**

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, Councilman Ambrosino presented the Public Safety Telecommunicators (dispatchers) with a proclamation recognizing the importance of their stressful job as frontline workers for emergency services.

**Municipal Budget Hearing**

Mayor Crate said she introduced her first budget on March 28 exactly one month after becoming Mayor. She said she worked with the financial team and reviewed every line item. They sharpened their pencils and reduced operating costs. She wanted to be fiscally responsible in these tough economic times. She is proud to support this

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streamlined budget which will see a slight tax decrease but noted it only affects the Township portion of taxes. She thanked Council President deJong for allowing her to speak to the Council and the residents of Brick Township.

Motion by Councilman Minichino and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to suspend the regular order of business for the budget hearing.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Clerk Iannarone advised to proceed with the public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget and stated the budget was introduced by the governing body on March 28, 2023 and was advertised in the Ocean Star on March 31, 2023 together with notice of hearing for April 25, 2023 at this time.

Council President deJong said copies of the budget were posted on the township website and are in the back of the room. Before opening this public hearing, I wish to outline the procedure. Each person desiring to be heard will raise their hand, wait to be recognized and give his or her name for the record. I will recognize one speaker at a time. Address all questions to the chair; when necessary they will be referred to individual members of the governing body or municipal officials. Questions must be confined solely to the municipal budget before us; school or county matters are not proper subjects of this hearing and cannot be discussed or answered here tonight. She opened up the public hearing on the municipal budget.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to close the public hearing.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

#### **Authorize Reading of Budget by Title Only**

Township Clerk read the following:

N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the Budget shall be read in full at the public hearing, or that it may be read by its title only if:

1. At least one week prior to the date of the hearing, and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget shall be made available for public inspection. [N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8].
2. Shall be made available to each person upon request.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to read the budget by title only.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

#### **Authorize Budget Amendment**

Councilman Albanese advised Madam President, there is a resolution at this time amending the 2023 Municipal Budget.

Council President deJong asked Township Clerk Iannarone to read this Resolution.

Clerk Iannarone read the Budget Amendment in its entirety as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Local Municipal Budget for the year 2023 was approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023; and,

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Brick desires to amend the introduced and approved budget; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**, that the following amendments to the approved 2023 budget be made:

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	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
<b>SUMMARY of CURRENT FUND SECTION of APPROVED BUDGET</b>		
<b>General Appropriation For:</b>		
<b>1. Appropriations within "CAPS"</b>		
(a) Municipal Purposes {(Item H-1, Sheet 19) (N.J.S. 40A:4-45.2)}	\$91,278,044.00	\$91,249,125.05
<b>2. Appropriations excluded from "CAPS"</b>		
(a) Municipal Purposes {(Item H-2, Sheet 28) (N.J.S. 40A:4-45.3 as amended)}	\$20,581,732.96	\$20,338,440.79
<b>Total General Appropriations excluded from "CAPS" (Item O, Sheet 29)</b>	<b>\$20,581,732.96</b>	<b>\$20,338,440.79</b>
<b>4. Total General Appropriations (Item 9, Sheet 29)</b>		
	<b>\$115,739,974.27</b>	<b>\$115,467,763.15</b>
<b>6. Difference: Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget</b>		
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	\$ 80,819,568.62	\$ 80,547,357.50

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

<b>6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:</b>		
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 80,819,568.62	\$ 80,547,357.50
<b>Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of the Municipal Budget</b>	<b>\$ 80,819,568.62</b>	<b>\$ 80,547,357.50</b>
<b>7. Total General Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$115,739,974.27</u></b>	<b><u>\$115,467,763.15</u></b>

**GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**(A)Operations - within "CAPS"**

EMT Services		
Salary and Wages	\$ 987,640.00	\$ 995,073.17
Solid Waste Collection		
Salary and Wages	\$ 4,233,016.00	\$ 4,355,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal Costs		
Other Expenses	\$ 3,286,125.00	\$ 3,127,788.88
Total Operations {Item 8(A)} within "CAPS"	\$ 78,538,159.00	\$ 78,509,240.05
Total Operations Including Contingent within "CAPS"	\$ 78,538,159.00	\$ 78,509,240.05

Detail:

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Salary and Wages	\$ 43,717,566.00	\$ 43,846,983.17
Other Expenses (Including Contingent)	\$ 34,820,593.00	\$ 34,662,256.88
<b>(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"</b>	\$ 91,278,044.00	\$ 91,249,125.05
<b>(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>		
<b>Garbage and Trash Removal and Disposal Exclusion</b>	\$ 113,875.00	\$ -
<b>Solid Waste Collection Exclusion Collection Exclusion</b>	\$ 121,984.00	\$ -
<b>Total Other Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	\$ 1,101,016.00	\$ 865,157.00
<b>Additional Appropriations Offset by Revenues (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3h)</b>		
EMT Services		
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,692,333.17	\$ 1,684,900.00
<b>Total Additional Appropriations Offset by Revenues (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3h)</b>	\$ 2,038,484.17	\$ 2,031,051.00
<b>Total Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	\$ 4,454,134.70	\$ 4,210,842.53
<b>Detail:</b>		
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,814,317.17	\$ 1,684,900.00
Other Expenses	\$ 2,639,817.53	\$ 2,525,942.53
<b>(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	\$ 20,581,732.96	\$ 20,338,440.79
<b>(O) Total General Appropriations Excluded From CAPS</b>	\$ 20,581,732.96	\$ 20,338,440.79
<b>(L) Subtotal General Appropriations</b>		
<b>{Items (H-1) and (O)}</b>	\$111,859,776.96	\$111,587,565.84
<b>9. Total General Appropriations</b>	\$115,739,974.27	\$115,467,763.15

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"</b>	\$ 91,278,044.00	\$ 91,249,125.05
<b>(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>		
<b>Other Operations</b>	\$ 1,101,016.00	\$ 865,157.00
<b>Additional Appropriations Offset by Revenues</b>	\$ 2,038,484.17	\$ 2,031,051.00
<b>Total Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	\$ 4,454,134.70	\$ 4,210,842.53



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**Tax Collector:**

Business Administrator Bergin advised of the following:  
Tax Overpayment 2023 – Block 527, Lot 30

Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

There were no comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Resolutions.

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

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call with the exception of Council President deJong abstaining on Community Services Inc.

**2023 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$11,195,498.58**

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 Councilman Minichino and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

**2023 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,840,114.80**

**Ordinance on First Reading: Vacate a Portion of Askin Road**

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

Councilman Minichino explained the Council's Land Use Committee is recommending this ordinance to vacate a portion of Askin Road. JSM at Jack Martin Boulevard LLC is the owner of Block 16 which is adjacent to property owned by Centro NP Laurel Square. JSM has made application to the Township of Brick to vacate a 34-foot right-of-way portion of Askin Road. The Applicant has received site plan and subdivision approval, where the vacation was a condition of approval. They have also satisfied all requirements imposed by all other outside agencies.

Motion by Council Vice President Zapcic and seconded by Councilwoman Travers to adopt the following Ordinance on First Reading and said Ordinance be published as provided by law:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

**AN ORDINANCE VACATING ANY RIGHTS TO A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY  
ACROSS PROPERTY KNOWN AS A PORTION OF ASKIN ROAD,  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS PART OF GREEN GROVE ROAD, TOWNSHIP OF  
BRICK, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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

John Sluka, read his letter and stated that because it is an election year, there will be no township tax increase but Ocean County and school taxes will go up especially with the State aid cuts to the school which will impact our taxes. He noted at the last meeting we

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heard how wonderful it was to meeting with the Women's Club, the Garden Club and attended grand openings such as the WaWa on Lanes Mill Road but no one has visited Evergreen Woods to see the noise and pollution impact the Garden State Parkway has had on its residents. He said a safety wall is needed and replanting should be done for the health of the residents.

Nan Coll was asked why the Township hasn't recognized Jeanine Niemira, Chairperson for the County's Individuals with Disabilities Commission and inquired about the number of people receiving health benefits and cost of same.

There were further comments from the public.

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

Mayor Crate thanked Maureen Laffey-Berg and Joanne Bergin for their work on the budget. It was her first budget and said it is a huge endeavor. She thanked the telecommunicators for their hard work. She advised she toured their work area and said it was dark with so many screens and buttons and no windows. She complimented their efforts remaining calm when residents are at their worst during an emergency. She said it is an extremely tough job. She mentioned upcoming events such as the PBA Helping Hands basketball fundraiser and the Senior Citizen Prom. She said they received their 2022 Tree City USA recognition and thanked and congratulated Dottie LaPosa again.

Councilwoman Pontoriero congratulated the Students of the Month and thanked Ms. Laffey-Berg and Ms. Bergin for their work on the budget. She noted it is a year-round effort for them and the department heads and she appreciated their efforts.

Councilman Ambrosino and Councilman Minichino echoed Councilwoman Pontoriero's comments and also thanked the Mayor for her work during the past couple of months and doing what is best for the citizens.

Council Vice President Zapcic congratulated the Students of the Month and thanked the three students that attended the meeting. She congratulated Dottie LaPosa on her forty years of volunteer service. She also thanked and congratulated the telecommunicators for being the frontline for emergency services.

Council President deJong thanked Mrs. Bergin and Mrs. Laffey-Berg for their incredible work on the budget. She advised that the Farmers Market will begin May 6 and their next meeting will take place on May 9, 2023.

Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Councilman Ambrosino to Adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

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Heather deJong  
Council President

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Lynnette A. Iannarone  
Township Clerk