

September 26, 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	Also Present
Councilman Perry Albanese	Kevin Starkey, Township Attorney
Councilman Derrick Ambrosino	Lynnette A. Iannarone, Township Clerk
Councilman Vince Minichino	Lisa Crate, Mayor
Councilwoman Marianna Pontoriero	Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator
Councilwoman Melissa Travers	
Council Vice President Andrea Zapcic	
Council President Heather deJong	

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 same.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino and seconded by Councilman Albanese to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting and approve same.
All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call

Presentations:

Ocean County Teacher of the Year

Mayor Crate presented Jaclyn Potochar, a 7th grade teacher at Lake Riviera Middle School, with a proclamation for being selected the Ocean County Teacher of the Year as part of the Governor's Educator of the Year Program. As a fellow educator, Mayor Crate thanked her for her hard work and congratulated her on this honor. Her family and principal were also in attendance.

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.

Authorize Insertion of Chapter 159 – 2023 Clean Communities Grant

Councilman Minichino advised this resolution authorizes the insertion of a grant in the amount of \$191,021.85 from the State of New Jersey for the 2023 Clean Communities Grant. This is an annual grant the Township applies for to offset the cost of personnel and programs for garbage collection and recycling. Grant amounts are based on population, housing units, road mileage, etc. in an effort to encourage recycling, litter patrols and cleanup.

Authorization to Bid – Vac-Con Parts, Supplies and Repairs

Councilman Albanese stated this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for parts, supplies and repairs for the Township's jet vac. These repairs cannot be done in-house due to the specialized nature of the equipment and required training.

Authorize Award of Contract for Roadway Improvements – Isolated Roads

Council Vice President Zapcic said this resolution authorizes an award of contract for roadway improvements to isolated roads to Fiore Paving, in the amount of \$387,600.00. Roads to be improved in this contract include Morris Avenue and parts of Meridian Drive. Bid notices were provided to 75 prospective bidders from the bidder's list and 7 picked up bid packages. Five bids were received with Fiore Paving being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Authorize Award of Contract – Motors for Marine 1

Councilman Ambrosino advised this resolution authorizes the award of contract in the

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amount of \$55,360.20 to Chestnut Neck Boat Yard Company, for the purchase and installation of new motors on the Police Department's Marine 1 boat. This project is being awarded through State Contract.

Authorize Award of Contract – Softball Fields at Drum Point Sports Complex

Council Vice President Zapcic explained this resolution authorizes an award of contract in the amount of \$39,975.00 with Advanced Athletic Services for the renovation of four infields of the softball fields at Drum Point Sports Complex. In accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, the Township received two quotes for this work, with Advanced Athletic Services being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Authorize Award of Contract – Roll-Off Containers

Councilwoman Travers stated this resolution authorizes an award of contract in the amount of \$35,646.65 with Wastequip, for five 40-yard roll-off containers. In accordance with the Local Public Contracts law, the Township received two quotes for this work, with Wastequip being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Authorize Award of Contract – Emergency Lighting for Utility Task Vehicle

Councilwoman Pontoriero said this resolution authorizes an award of contract in the amount of \$3,567.24 with Jersey Shore Powersports, for the purchase and installation of emergency lighting to the Polaris Ranger ATV recently purchased for the Police Department's Traffic Safety Division.

Authorize Sale of Surplus Property – Municibid Online Auction

Councilman Minichino stated this resolution authorizes the sale of surplus property through the online auction services provided by Municibid. The Township will auction off a 2019 Honda Civic acquired through forfeiture.

Authorize Vehicle Donation to the Ocean County Vocational School Academy of Law & Public Safety

Councilman Ambrosino explained this resolution authorizes a vehicle donation of a 2009 Chevy Tahoe to the Ocean County Vocational School Academy of Law and Public Safety. The Tahoe is no longer in service and is not providing any usefulness to the Township.

Authorize Placement of Tax Lien for Property Clean-Up – Block 792, Lot 13

Councilwoman Travers said this resolution authorizes the placement of a tax lien at 1457 Princess Avenue in the amount of \$60.13.

Authorize Special Events Permit – St. Paul's Church Festival

Councilwoman Pontoriero stated this resolution authorizes a special event permit for St. Paul's United Methodist Church to hold a Festival event from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday, October 21 at the Church on Herbertsville Road.

Bond Releases/Reductions:

Clerk Iannarone advised of the following:

- Performance Bond Release- Block 470.01, Lot 16 - Performance Bond in the amount of \$22,282.06 and a cash performance bond in the amount of \$2,475.79 along with the engineering inspection fees in the amount of \$1,065.91 be returned to the applicant;
- Inspection Fund Release- Block 321.02, Lot 17 – in the amount of \$407.06.
- Inspection Fund Release- Block 380.18, Lot 1.01 - in the amount of \$946.12.
- Inspection Fund Release- Block 701.02, Lot 2 - in the amount of \$2,623.12.
- Inspection Fund Release- Block 852, Lot 1 - in the amount of \$782.92.
- Inspection Fund Release- Block 935, Lot 46 - in the amount of \$907.06

Tax Collector:

Business Administrator Bergin advised of the following:

- Tax Overpayment 2020 – Block 867, Lot 5
- Tax Overpayment 2023 – Block 1192.31, Lot 23

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Council President deJong opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Nan Coll questioned the resolution regarding the Polaris. She also asked for addresses to be used rather than blocks and lots.

Council President deJong advised it pertained to an ATV.

There were no further comments from the public.

Council President deJong closed the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Council President 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 with the exception of:
Councilman Minichino abstained on Teamsters and
Council President deJong abstained on Community Services

Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$11,885,321.24

Council President 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 Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Travers to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,908,083.84

**Ordinance on First Reading:
Amending Chapter 18, "Fire Department"**

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

Councilman Minichino explained the Joint Board of Fire Commissioners requested that the Council consider amending the Brick Fire Code, specifically section 18-2 Members and Officers. They proposed including language that clarifies the age requirement for membership eligibility, specifically, firemen of the age of 18 years and not more than 57 years of age at the time of their election to membership. In Section 18-4 Certificate of Service, the Fire Commissioners requested adding the same age requirement as well as a requirement to perform 25 percent of fire duty during that period. The same language requiring performing 25 percent of fire duty is being requested in section 18-5 Exempt Firemen's Certificate. The request came as a result of the Fire Commissioners plan to have the Township Ordinance be consistent with State Statute 40A: 14-56.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino 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 the Roll Call.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRICK,
COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP**

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**OF BRICK IN CHAPTER 18, "FIRE DEPARTMENT," TO
BE CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW REGARDING AN
EXEMPT FIREFIGHTER'S CERTIFICATE**

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

Frank Pugliese, a veteran of WW2 and Korean Wars, stated he was having a problem with his neighbor and is at risk of losing his side yard due to the neighbor's failing bulkhead. He installed a new bulkhead and his neighbor also needs to do so. He's tried to reach out to his neighbor but he does not live there, it's a rental.

Business Administrator Bergin responded that his neighbor does have a permit for a new bulkhead but the house is currently under construction. Engineering has spoken to the owner and she will also check with the Building Department regarding any violations. They are hoping to move up the timeline for the new bulkhead.

John Sluka stated he heard some addresses here tonight and hopes it continues. He read his letter dated September 19th regarding three major pollutants as a result of traffic. It is damaging their bodies especially those in close proximity of the Garden State Parkway. A 14 - 20-foot-high pollution and sound wall is needed in many areas throughout Brick. It has been twelve years since the New Jersey Turnpike Authority assaulted Brick. He asked the Mayor and Council to save the residents.

Nan Coll said she decided to get up every meeting and spend her five minutes on "soup de jour" topics. She complained about the lighting on the roadways and how dangerous it is.

Mark Vasquez spoke of his concern of the recent crimes. He was also upset to see the Police Department in a political ad and said it was disrespectful. He told the Mayor it was unethical and for her own political gain. He asked what she would do about it and asked the Council to reprimand the Mayor.

Charlie Bacon said residents are scared and that Brick Township has been on NJ12 News and NBC about the car thefts and home invasions. He mentioned multiple fights that have taken place in school and on school buses and said its deplorable. He said he noticed an electronic sign advising drivers to lock cars and take their key fobs. He tried to question the Mayor through the Chair about the 17 new police officers and what the Mayor's intent is for them. He also questioned the recent Brick Pride newspaper and that there were no negative comments in it. He sees it as campaign material at the taxpayers' expense. He also thanked the police for maintaining safety. He asked the Mayor a comment.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

Mayor Crate said that she wants to be very clear that her number one goal as Mayor of Brick Township is the safety and well-being of the residents and said that she shares that goal with her Chief of Police. She said that she met with Chief Forrester today to ensure that the Brick Township Police Departments has everything they need – whether it be manpower, equipment, or support – to do what they do best, which is keeping people safe, investigating crimes and arresting people who break the law. She said that it is important to understand that what is happening here is not isolated to Brick Township – the Chief is working diligently with law enforcement partners across the spectrum to ensure safety in town. In terms of recent events, please know that the Police Department is working on these cases 24/7, but the details of their work are not something they share publicly. They are the professionals and the experts in their field. Disclosing investigative strategies could easily backfire and impede their work, so she's asking everyone to trust the men and women sworn to keep us safe. This Council has an established track record of supporting the men and women of the Brick Township Police Department. In the past 10 years, they have invested millions of dollars in police equipment, tools and training.

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They have also invested in manpower, with the roster growing from 128 to 146 and are sending a strong message to criminals, commit a crime in Brick and you will be caught. They are counting on everyone to be partners in their neighborhoods. Be diligent and look out for your neighbors. And if you see something out of the ordinary, say something – call the Brick Police. Join the Neighborhood Watch, or start one if there is not one in your community. Welcome the Community Policing officers to come and talk with you to share tips and strategies on ways to be safe and stay safe. Mayor Crate also mentioned a few things she participated in such as: the Grand Opening of Durazzo's Deli and the Inaugural Longest Table and some upcoming events.

Councilwoman Pontoriero said she can tell its political season and the attendees have not been consistent. She was disgusted with comments made about their Community Policing as they have done a lot of good things. She said that the men and women in blue do anything and everything to prevent crime and to infer the Mayor and Council has anything to do with it is simply fear mongering. She suggested residents join their local Neighborhood Watch Programs. She said these crimes are taking place all over New Jersey, not just in Brick.

Councilman Ambrosino and Councilwoman Travers both congratulated the Ocean County Teacher of the Year – Jaclyn Potochar.

Councilman Minichino thanked Mr. Pugliese for his service.

Council Vice President Zapcic also congratulated the Ocean County Teacher of the Year and said she's had the privilege of working with many phenomenal teachers. It is great to see so many dedicated teachers in the Township.

Council President deJong said that starting October 2nd, Senior Services will begin accepting appointments to assist with Medicare Open Enrollment and to call for an appointment.

Motion by Councilman Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Travers to Adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Heather deJong
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk