

April 9, 2024

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 February 16, 2024. 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
Councilwoman Heather deJong
Councilman Steve Feinman
Councilwoman Melissa Travers
Council Vice President Derrick Ambrosino
Council President Vince Minichino

Also Present

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

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

Motion by Council Vice President Ambrosino and seconded by Councilman Albanese to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 25, 2024 meeting and approve same.

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call except Councilwoman Pontoriero abstained due to her absence.

Presentations

Brick Memorial High School Girls Bowling Team

Mayor Crate read and presented a Mayor's proclamation to the Head Coach Tori Boughton of the Brick Memorial High School Girls Soccer Team on their NJSIAA Group 3 State Championship. The ten team members were presented with certificates of commendation.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 14 – 20, 2024

Mayor Crate presented a proclamation to the dispatchers recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Supervisor Donna Capper accepted along with two dispatchers on behalf of the department.

Dan Newman Day

Mayor Crate added a surprise proclamation for Dan Newman recognizing his thirty-years of service to the Township currently as Construction Official and his upcoming retirement on October 1, 2024. Dan's family was in attendance along with a few staff members from his department. Dan thanked everyone and said he is looking forward retirement.

Budget Presentations

Engineering – Elissa Commins

Thank you for your time this evening, in allowing me to provide a brief introduction to the engineering division, and address items requested in the 2024 budget. The primary functions of the Division of Engineering are to establish and maintain public infrastructure and assist with its integration to private property. We monitor the site construction and off-site improvements outside of a physical building envelope. Engineering currently employs six full-time employees. Our full-time staff includes; one licensed professional engineer, two NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) Certified Inspectors, an engineering aide/road inspector, who recently became a NJ Certified Stormwater Inspector, an engineering permit/inspection clerk and a secretary. As a group, we provide professional assistance to township departments such as DPW, In- House Construction, Traffic Safety and Parks as well as technical support for homeowners, business owners, realtors and developers. We also serve as the contact for various divisions of the NJDEP, the NJDOT and the Army Corp of Engineers. Additionally, we have partnered with USF&W to complete a marsh restoration project in sections of the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge. Our office is also the designated Flood Plain Administrator, responsible for compliance with the rules and requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, a division of FEMA. Based upon how well we comply with NFIP regulations and guidelines, our citizens are provided a discount on their flood insurance premiums.

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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.

Our goals for 2024 include:

1. Expanding, GIS based, stormwater inspection system;
2. Maintaining the Township's status within the Community Rating System (CRS) for discounted flood insurance premiums as previously mentioned;
3. Clearing violations from the NFIP Flood Insurance Violations Tracker;
4. Assisting residents, realtors and developers with private property development;
5. Coordination with public works for repairs and improvements to our existing infrastructure and maximizing the capital funds available to the greatest extent practical;
6. Developing a township wide dredge material management and habitat restoration masterplan; and,
7. Educating the public on flood risk and preparedness.

Engineering Operations:

We have spent a lot of thought and effort over the last few years developing procedures for better organization and standardization in the division.

- Permit input is now processed by our clerk, decreasing our 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;
- We 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 us to better assist people with their requirements, wants and needs while saving time and saving money. Engineering's salary and wage budget request for 2024 is \$170,000. While our 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. We strive to keep our costs as low as possible, so this year's budget request represents a decrease from last year. 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. We 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. Our overtime budget request for 2024 is \$10,000, which is consistent with our request from last year and the actual costs of the last few years.

Our operating budget request is \$75,200, These funds are requested to pay for:

- General supplies, tools and equipment we need to do our jobs, such as pens, uniforms, paint, measuring tools, levels, etc.;
- 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;
- Costs associated with annual permits such as NJDEP stormwater permitting for our annual municipal permit, our industrial permit for Trader's Cove Marina, a multitude of permits for our Public Works Facility and tidelands licenses for our waterfront parks and infrastructure; and,
- Our biggest item is for the professional services of engineers, surveyors, architects and environmentalists that need to be contracted with to complete tasks beyond the resources of our in-house Division of Engineering.

Engineering's largest line item is for expert services. This is money that the Division 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 rendered or required, these monies are not spent. This year's request represents a decrease from prior years, as we have been able to accomplish more internally as a

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result of the cross-training and streamlining processes I mentioned earlier. I thank the Mayor and Council, our Business Administrator and the citizens for their patience, support and active participation in all of our projects and initiatives.

Council President Minichino opened for questions on the Engineering budget.

Vic Fanelli asked how she was able to lower the salary and wage budget but had the same number of staff members (6) as last year. He complimented her for doing such a great job and recognized the savings on his flood insurance.

Ms. Commins said she is able to bill/charge escrow accounts for work done by her staff on certain projects. She advised we are currently Class 6 in the CRS resulting in a 20% discount on flood insurance.

There were no further questions from the public.

Building/Code Enforcement – Dan Newman

Thank you, Mayor Crate, Council members and our Business Administrator. I 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. The Division therefore has two budgets, one dedicated to the enforcement of the Uniform Construction Code, and one dedicated to Enforcement of our property maintenance codes, and rental inspections.

Uniform Construction Code Budget (#195)

The purpose of the Uniform Construction Code is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants of structures; 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 2023 was 3607, with an additional 987 permit updates. This is the highest number of permits since 2017. The total number of permits issued fluctuates based on economic and other conditions outside of our control. The number of inspections performed in 2023 was 18,039. The number of inspections also fluctuates based on economic conditions. Much of the revenue from permit fees is based on the value of construction of the projects. The value of construction for 2023 was \$117,227,054. The added value of improvements made to real property affects property taxes paid to the Township. Our revenue generated by permit fees was \$2,480,018. Additional revenue from items such as penalties, Application for Variation, certificate fees, and ongoing inspection programs like: annual inspections for public swimming pools, annual testing of backflow prevention devices and annual inspections of elevator devices, brought our grand total for revenue to \$2,859,640. Our Inspection staff is made up of a Construction Official, Sub code Officials, Inspectors and clerical support staff. Each Local Enforcement agency has one Construction Official. That individual has chief administrative responsibility for administering and enforcing the provisions of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code. Each technical area of the code has one Sub code Official. The Sub code Official, under the direction of the Construction Official, has administrative responsibility for enforcement of their specific jurisdiction. They interpret the requirements for their Sub code, perform plan reviews prior to a permit being issued, and are the immediate supervisor of the inspectors within their Sub code. Inspectors under the direction of their Sub code Officials and Construction Official perform the inspections in the field. The State of New Jersey has passed a new statute that requires a local enforcement agency to plan more carefully for manpower shortages. In 2024 we will be utilizing more per diem inspectors to provide inspection services when a full-time employee is not available. This could be when an inspector is on vacation, out sick or injured. The staff dedicated to the Building Sub code includes a full-time Building Sub code Official and two full-time building inspectors. In 2023 we also added a part time per diem inspector who comes in later in the day as needed. He is only used when the number of inspections requested is higher than normal, or a full-time inspector is unavailable. His use is to ensure we comply to the required time to complete an inspection. In September of 2023 our Building Sub code Official retired. He was replaced with a new full time Sub code Official. One of the full-time inspectors is retiring soon and we will replace him as soon a viable candidate can be found. The staff dedicated to the Plumbing/Mechanical Sub code includes a full-time Sub code Official and one full-time Plumbing/Mechanical inspector. In January 2024, we added a part time/per diem

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inspector that we utilize during vacations or extended absences of our full-time inspectors. I also perform inspections for this Sub code when needed. The staff dedicated to the Electrical Sub code includes a full-time Electrical Sub code Official and a full-time electrical inspector. In January 2024, we added a part time inspector who is available on a per diem basis. For Fire Sub code and Inspection services, we continue to utilize the services provided through a shared service agreement with the Brick Bureau of Fire Safety. Since Superstorm Sandy and the requirement to elevate homes, there has been a significant increase in the installation of residential elevators. To remain in compliance with the State of New Jersey regulations we added an additional Elevator inspector in August of 2023. We now have a part-time Elevator Sub code Official, and a part-time Elevator Inspector. As part-time employees they are paid on an hourly rate when they are needed. 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 sub code 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 2023 we had some transition in our support staff. A full-time clerical staff member was reassigned to a different Department. A new full-time staff member was added to replace the transferred employee. Also, the reception desk with the responsibility for greeting, welcoming, directing citizens to the appropriate divisions had been staffed by rotating different staff members from Land use, Engineering and Construction. That did not provide an efficient and consistent service to the public. In 2023, an employee was transferred to fill that need. In addition to the reception staff member there are presently 9 additional full-time clerical staff members. One clerk is the supervisor of the clerical staff. That staff member also processes applications for Certificate of Occupancy, responds and processes OPRA requests and aids all clerical staff members in their duties. The other 8 clerical staff have different tasks including; 3 permit intake clerical staff who are responsible for accepting residential permit applications, A permit intake clerk who specializes in commercial construction applications and managing ongoing inspections programs. A violation clerk is responsible for processing and preparing Notices of Violations and tracking and scheduling for the appropriate inspector to investigate properties following complaints from citizens. One clerk is responsible for scheduling construction inspections. One of our clerical staff has responsibility for bookkeeping and other administrative functions. Our clerks are cross trained but have primary responsibilities. Even with the changes to our staffing levels, the salary line item request for 2024 is stable, with a 1.7% decrease. When the requested overtime line item is added to regular salary is reduced by 2.37%. The total operating budget request for 2024 increased 1.9%. The largest drop in the operating budget request is for publishing line item 243. Every three years new code editions are adopted. The next code change cycle will begin in 2025. This line item will need to reflect the need to purchase new code books in the 2026 budget year. This year will have several challenges in enforcing the Uniform Construction Code regulations.

Cost: We always work diligently to control costs, including overtime. The overtime line item is being reduced more than 14%. New Laws: I discussed last year, a new statute was passed regarding the use of third-party agencies, or supplemental shared service agreements for extra inspection staff; and a requirement for written requests for inspections. These changes were estimated to begin in October of 2023. As of April 1st, the new regulations have been implemented. The new process allows for the use of third-party agencies or supplemental shared services agreement with a different jurisdiction. In the past if the Township wished to utilize a third-party inspection agency, or a shared service agreement to provide inspectors from a different jurisdiction; the entire Sub code would need to be turned over to the third party or the other jurisdiction. For example, if we needed an additional building inspector for a large project, the Building sub code Official, and all Building inspectors would have to be provided by the Third-Party Agency or through the shared services agreement. The new law allows third party agencies to be utilized for the added staff, without turning over to the agency the enforcement of the entire sub code. As of April 1st, the state regulation, N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.6, has been amended to reflect this change. The new regulations require a Township to provide a process for written requests for inspections instead of phone calls. N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.18 now requires the request for inspection to be submitted to the enforcing agency in writing. We have already started to provide that service through our workflow software portal. The owner or their agent can request an inspection electronically. The request must be submitted at least 1 full business day before you are requesting the inspection. The applicant needs to choose three possible days. Our software will then notify the applicant of which date is approved for the inspection. If the request was sent

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outside of normal business hours, the request is considered received on the next business day after it was sent. We have already received a request for an inspection sent at 4:30 pm requesting the following day. One of the other requested days was approved. The applicant cannot request an inspection more than thirty days in advance. The State of New Jersey has also directed the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJCA) to create regulations for the acceptance of electronic applications. Presently application must be submitted on NJCA standard forms with a "wet ink" signature. NJCA has not implemented new regulations on the processes and procedures necessary to allow full electronic submittals, including electronic plans. It has been said that the delay has been caused by the need to adjust the licensing law for regulated trades that presently require an embossed seal on all their documents and applications.

Staff Changes: This year will also bring some staff changes. As I stated one of the Building Inspectors is leaving soon. His extensive knowledge of the Construction Codes will be difficult to replace. A member of the Plumbing sub code is considering leaving also. He too will be very difficult to replace. In addition, I have decided to retire. Regardless of who replaces me there will in evidently be changes.

Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance/Rental Inspections (#196)

Budget 196 is for the Code Enforcement/ Property Maintenance and rental inspections provided by the Division of Inspections. The purpose of the municipal codes is to protect the quality of life of our residents, and ensure property owners provide safe housing when their units are rented. Our code enforcement staff includes 3 full-time inspectors and one full time clerical staff member who also inspects rental units. Supervisory help is provided by our acting Code Enforcement Supervisor. 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 the Code Enforcement Officers 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 as you can imagine occur frequently. Saturday Code Enforcement hours does not generate overtime. One of our inspectors has a flexible schedule that allows him to work on Saturday. Rental inspections were conducted on 728 properties. 119 inspections were also conducted as re-inspections due to deficiencies discovered when the initial inspections were conducted. The total number of inspections was 1030. Fees collected for rental inspections totaled \$93,950. The inspectors also investigate properties based on complaints or spot checks of known problem properties. 2771 inspections were conducted. These inspections generated 1693 notices of violation of the municipal code. 1611 have been closed, 82 remain open, 94 have been issued summonses to appear in municipal court, and 38 of the summonses have been closed. In the past we utilized an outside company to register properties that were vacant, or where a foreclosure action had been brought whether vacant or not. The company that had been providing this service for the Township no longer provides this service. The Township has started to register these properties ourselves starting in November. From November to the end of 2023 the Township processed 98 registrations. We also processed 32 properties that were de-registered. The total fees collected was \$53,100. The State now requires the Township to collect proof of liability insurance from every business and many rental units. In Brick this state requirement is accomplished by requiring a Mercantile License for all those required to show proof of insurance. The process started slowly as we needed to educate many businesses about the new State regulation. In 2023, starting in June, we issued 43 Mercantile Licenses and collected \$1,075. More of the public is aware so in the first three months of 2024 we have already issued 125 Mercantile Licenses. The Property Maintenance Review Board is an active body that meets every 6 or 8 weeks. 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 our neighborhoods. Our staff works diligently to prepare cases to be presented to the board, provide testimony, 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 Board. It is primarily used when individuals have failed to respond to Violation Notices issued by the Code Enforcement Officers. The 2024 request for Operating & Expenses is significantly lower than in 2023. This is primarily from a reduction in the line items to demolish structures. Some of the structures scheduled for demolition have been removed by their owners or are presently undergoing repairs. We do not anticipate needing as much money for demolition until the long legal process to remove a structure

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is completed. The state has now mandated that dwellings built before 1978 that are rented for longer than 6 months, must be inspected for possible lead hazards. 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; as they are already check for lead by the State. The Council passed an ordinance on March 12 of this year to begin enforcing the state regulation. The ordinance went into effect April 4, 2024. We must inspect all rental units, that are required to be inspected, by July 22, 2024 and on units after a change of tenancy. Again, thank you for this opportunity to present our budget requests. The Division of Inspections looks forward to another year of supporting and assisting our residents. As I already indicated this will be my last budget presentation. Thank you very much for the years of support.

Council President Minichino opened for questions on the Building/Code Enforcement budgets.

Sam Foster stated he knew both Mayor Newman and Dan Newman and they were both good for the town. He said Mr. Newman will be missed and he wished him a long happy retirement.

Land Use & Zoning – Tara Paxton & Chris Romano

Thank you Mayor Crate, Council President Minichino and the entire governing body, as well as our Business Administrator for giving Zoning Officer Christopher Romano and I this opportunity to present the budget for the Division of Land Use. On behalf of our employees, we thank you for the support and continued assistance you give us throughout the year. The Division 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 2023 included the following:

- Green Acres Program grant approval for \$1.2 million for the purchase of Breton Woods
- Master Plan adoption of the following 3 documents:
 - Circulation and Transportation Element – last done in 2000
 - Land Use Element Resiliency Update – State mandated in 2021
 - Environmental Resources Inventory – updated the 1979 inventory with the help of her staff Vin Palmieri and Ed Peters and it was adopted by the Master Plan Committee and Planning Board.
- CRS Annual Review: 78 Elevation Certificates were reviewed and submitted for accuracy by the Engineering and Land Use Staff and served as the pre-requisite to our planning efforts. The result: 99% compliance, continuing the excellent work of our employees. We have over 3549 policies through the National Flood Insurance Program resulting in a discount of over \$600,000 – approximately \$200. Per residence.

We have seven full-time employees with eleven Planning Board members and nine Zoning Board members. We 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) and the Green Fair will be held on May 18th, 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 our Affordable Housing Trust Fund. In 2023, our division collected \$467,981.30 in Affordable Housing Fees and passed on 85% of the funds to Homes Now, Inc. in the contract amount of \$397,784.10. A total of 880 deed restricted units are maintained in accordance with the Fair Share Act Regulations. The Division of Land Use & Planning has five main revenue sources that help to offset the cost to taxpayers for our operations. We 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% from last year including overtime. Most overtime charges are made to the rider accounts because they are related to the Planning Board and Zoning Board Cases.

- CDBG was charged \$54,080
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund \$7,469.80
- \$23,660.47 to the Planning Board and Zoning Board Rider Accounts
- \$22,297.50 to the Planning Board and Zoning Board Escrow Accounts

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These funds are not taxpayer funded, but grant funded and development fee funded which result in a savings of \$107,507.77 for a net salary expense of \$337,492.23 in 2023. The 2024 Land Use operating budget increased by \$27,500 as a result of the Expert Services line item increasing to \$60,000 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. Appraisals, Surveys, Preliminary Environmental Assessments, Wetland Delineations and other studies are required for Green Acres Approved Acquisitions - when we purchase land then are reimbursed. Chris Romano then discussed the Zoning Office advising the office is staffed by two employees – the Zoning Officer and a clerk. Zoning applications can range from a request to build a small 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. Our office is involved with all development applications from the initial informal meeting requests with applicants through the permitting process. In 2023, we processed 1,646 permit applications and brought in \$103,525 in revenue from issuance of permits.

Zoning Board:

- 79 cases, 3 additional special hearings, \$29,020 in application fees and \$193,640 in Escrow fees.

Planning Board:

- 13 cases, \$24,625.00 in application fees and \$163,302.00 in Escrow fees.

Mrs. Paxton continued advising our GIS and data specialist held a presentation and now works closely with the BTMUA and the Township's Consulting Surveyor to maintain the Township's Computer Mapping (tax maps) 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. In 2023 we completed a 10-year update to our Green Acres Recreation and Open Space Inventory and will be working on the Planning Incentive Plan which is a huge mapping undertaking and pre-requisite to receive more open space funding.

In 2023, the Township received the CDBG FY 2023 Grant award of \$309,179. We received \$101,500.00 in grant requests and awarded \$46,376 in Public Services Grants to 13 non-profit agencies that provide services to the residents of Brick.

- 9 housing rehabilitation projects completed and administered by the Township Staff and through Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity
- CDBG COVID funds – We closed out the two large grants provided for the response, preparation and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - o 21 families have been helped by the Rent Assistance Program up to \$5,000 each administered through Homes Now, Inc.
 - o 364 students and their families have been helped through the counseling grant to Preferred Behavioral Health to help families and students and English as a second language families.

Other grants offset Capital costs by providing funding for park development acquisition, EV stations and other recreational amenities. The staff also assists other departments in NJ Dept. of Transportation, Community Affairs, Environmental Protection, DOJ police grants and Federal Grants throughout the year. That concludes our report. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Council President Minichino opened for questions on the Land Use & Zoning budgets.

Vic Fanelli thanked Brick for doing such a good job with grants – over \$2.2 million.

Joanne Bergin said that was just in their division and added she was instrumental in obtaining \$1.2 million.

Vic Fanelli asked for a total but Mrs. Paxton replied they are listed in the budget but could get a total for him.

There were no further questions on the budget presentations.

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

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

Authorize Receipt of Bids – Automated Chest Compression Devices

Councilman Feinman stated this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for automated chest compression devices as needed for the Township's Emergency Medical Technicians.

Authorize Receipt of Bids – General Athletic Equipment & Supplies

Councilwoman Travers said this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for general athletic equipment and supplies, including but not limited to athletic equipment, summer camp supplies, pre-school games, etc. used by the Recreation Department.

Authorize Receipt of Bids – Flood Control Valves

Council Vice President Ambrosino advised this resolution authorizes the receipt of bids for the purchase and delivery of various size check valves and their installation. The Township has many streets with low-lying elevation and high tides that can cause flooding when water backs up into storm sewers. The valves will be placed within the municipally-owned storm drainage pipes in areas subject to tidal inundation. A properly installed check valve allows stormwater to flow out, but prevents tide water from flowing into storm sewers and can reduce instances of flooding that result from tide elevations that are higher than the surrounding streets.

Authorize Rejection of Bids and Rebid – Manufacturing and Printing of Tax Bills

Councilman Albanese said this resolution authorizes the rejection of bids and rebid for the manufacturing and printing of tax bills. Bid notices were provided to 31 prospective bidders from the bidders list and 3 picked up bid packages. One bid was received, but was rejected due to it substantially exceeding the cost estimate for the project. They are re-advertising in the hopes of getting a more appropriate priced proposal.

Authorize Award of Contract – Upfit to Six (6) Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles

Councilwoman Pontoriero stated this resolution authorizes an award of contract to East Coast Emergency Lighting, in the amount of \$94,829.40 for the purchase and installation of various equipment for new police patrol vehicles.

Authorize Award of Contract – Purchase and Delivery of Forty-Eight (48) Front Load Dumpsters

Councilwoman Travers advised this resolution authorizes an award of contract to Rudco Products, in the amount of \$1,242.00 per container for the purchase and delivery of 48 front load dumpsters as needed for solid waste collection.

Authorize Award of Contract – Landscape Maintenance Services at Solar Field

Councilwoman deJong explained this resolution authorizes an award of contract to OnSite Landscape Management, in the amount of \$56,000.00 for the landscape maintenance services at the solar field. The scope of work for this project includes a spring and fall mowing, seed mix with fertilizer, hay, topsoil, mulch, vegetation removal and disposal in riprap areas of approximately 15 acres. This is a two-year contract.

Authorize Award of Contract – Beer & Wine Garden Concession.

Council President Minichino advised this resolution authorizes an award of contract to Windward Tavern, for the Beer & Wine Garden Concession at Township events in the amount of \$7,100.00. Bid notices were provided to 26 prospective bidders from the bidders list and 3 picked up bid packages. One bid was received.

Authorize Demolition of Structure & Lien – 24 Adair Drive – Block 280, Lot 32

Councilman Feinman stated this resolution authorizes the demolition of 24 Adair Drive as ordered by the Township's property Maintenance Board.

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Authorize Special Events Permit – Church of Epiphany Italian Feast

Council Vice President Ambrosino advised this resolution authorizes a special event permit for Epiphany Church to hold an Italian Feast from 5 to 10 pm August 15, 16, 17 and 18 at the Church on Thiele Road.

Bond Releases/Reductions: Clerk Iannarone advised of the following:

- Performance Bond Release – Block 646, Lot 31

Tax Collector: Business Administrator Bergin advised of the following:

- Tax Overpayment 2024 – Block 1429.02, Lot 2

Council President Minichino opened the public hearing on the Resolutions.

Sam Foster asked if there are any township inspectors checking on the legitimacy of the vendors at the Epiphany Italian Feast. He also asked where the front-end dumpsters were going and whether or not it would be feasible for township staff to do the landscaping at the solar field. He wanted to know if there is a building height limit in the township.

Clerk Iannarone advised they do not have inspectors checking on the vendors at Epiphany's Italian Feast.

Business Administrator Bergin replied that the front-end dumpsters are placed in condo communities where the Township collects such as Evergreen Woods. With regards to the solar field maintenance, she advised there is a significant slope and the staff lacks the necessary equipment and training. In addition, they are having issues with the joint insurance fund for the staff due to the slope. She informed him that they do have height restrictions and a developer would need a variance but heights vary based upon the zone.

Rubin Korn (sp) and another gentleman requested a delay on the demolition at 24 Adair Drive as they recently purchased the property. They were told permits would take at least six weeks to receive.

Attorney Starkey replied that this property has been in significant disrepair since 2021. He said the Property Maintenance Board has held several hearings and this demo has been years and years in the making so he will recommend the council proceed with this resolution. He heard the property changed hands but the demolition is authorized on or after May 31st which gives the owner time to make an application to the building department. There's another Property Maintenance Board meeting on the 24th, but once the demo is complete a lien will be placed on the property for the cost of the demolition.

Business Administrator Bergin said they will need a structural evaluation and permit to also lift the home and noted this property has changed hands and been going on since 2002, but the first step is to update and submit your plans. She added that she has spoken to many neighboring residents and it is not fair to them. You cannot expect us to waive this because you did not do your due diligence prior to purchasing.

Mr. Korn said he received the first letter in December regarding this and when asked when they purchased, he advised January 2023.

Councilwoman Pontoriero stated that she recalled numerous residents coming to council meetings complaining about this property and with new ownership for over a year, she planned on proceeding with the resolution.

There were no further comments from the public.

Council President Minichino closed the public hearing on the Resolutions.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Council President Minichino closed the public hearing on the Computer Bill Resolution

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Motion by Councilwoman Pontoriero and seconded by Council Vice President Ambrosino to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2024 Computer Bill Resolution in the amount of \$4,388,223.54.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Council President Minichino closed the public hearing on the Manual Bill Resolution

Motion by Council Vice President Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to adopt the following Resolution:

All Council Members voted AYE on the Roll Call.

2024 Manual Bill Resolution in the amount of \$1,943,338.29.

Ordinance on Second Reading: Cap Rate Ordinance

Clerk Iannarone read title of Ordinance into the record.

Council Vice President Ambrosino advised 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 it be needed to fund a one-time expenditure. The monies available by this cap rate index ordinance may be used to offset costs of any future disasters and the need for any future emergency appropriation. They are not generating cash, it is just creating the ability to raise money should it be needed in the future. If the funds are not needed in the succeeding two years the bank is simply dissolved.

Motion by Council Vice President Ambrosino and seconded by Councilwoman Travers 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 2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Council President Minichino opened the public hearing on the Ordinance.

Vic Fanelli questioned how this affects the taxes.

Business Administrator Bergin explained it's a formula on paper allowing us the ability to access money from bonds if needed and to borrow how they typically borrow by bonding but it's a different process and only used in emergency situations.

Charlie Bacon asked for confirmation that the increase on taxes will be 1.9 percent based upon the budget the Mayor presented last meeting. He questioned with no tax increase last year and contracts being awarded 5-6 percent increases, how will they be making up the difference and asked if this cap bank would be used for that.

Business Administrator Bergin advised the last time we used this was after Superstorm Sandy and it will not be used for contracts.

There were not further comments from the public.

Council President Minichino closed the public hearing on the Ordinance.

April 9, 2024

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

John Sluka read his letter dated March 30, 2024. He stated the NJ Turnpike Authority did plant 80 3 ft. trees which are about 10 ft. tall now and they are being maintained by the association but they are not doing enough. There are kids waiting for the bus and pools close by. The air pollution is 20 ft. off the main road and the toxins are troubling and causing many health issues in children and seniors. He said that he will be attending a meeting with the Board of Education regarding a report on the recent academic test results. He said a 14 ft. wall is needed in affected areas.

Mindy Murray stated she attended a NY Yankees game recently and was ticketed for beeping her horn. She said she's on the road approximately 55 hours a week and asked if Brick would consider enforcing this. She also complained about the litter on the triangular piece of property at Jack Martin and Route 88.

Councilwoman Pontoriero asked the attorney if the beeping is considered aggressive driving. She said she would discuss it at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Attorney Starkey advised the laws followed are under Title 39 from the State and the Township handles parking but the police have the discretion to ticket. The council does not need to consider an ordinance.

Vic Fanelli noted that the front wall is now gone from the former dance studio building on Mantoloking Road and not sure if they took any action but it is now twice the size and questioned how that counts as a renovation. He also compared last year's and this year's proposed budgets and said there is an increase of 5.35 percent and school will go up 2 percent plus with the county, library, fire, etc., they are looking at a 7 ½ - 10 percent increase.

Business Administrator Bergin replied this was not the budget adoption meeting and would not answer his questions at this time.

Bob Mattiliano questioned the dredging grant mentioned at last meeting. He said he spoke with the engineer and was told his area cost would be \$3 million and there would be an added assessment on their properties.

Business Administrator Bergin said it was a \$5 million grant for three areas and was in concert with the NJDEP and Fish & Wildlife to determine what areas were priority. All marshland areas are being assessed but he is the only resident from his area to request dredging. The cost would impact all of his neighborhood just like the one in Nejecho Beach. She said that they received a town-wide permit and now it becomes an engineering function.

Bob Mattiliano also questioned the 2 percent increase on the police budget.

Business Administrator Bergin said she did not have that budget with her tonight to check the figures.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

Mayor Crate highlighted Senior Services and the different services they offer such as help with utility bill assistance programs, PPAD, PTR and all other kinds of paperwork. She said the dialysis bus has been a huge success and since January has supplied over 360 rides and a second bus is coming. She added that they recently applied for another grant for two accessible vans to be used with wheelchairs. They launched the Community Cafe at the Housing Authority and have served over 600 meals and will be submitting for additional grants monies.

Councilwoman Pontoriero thanked the budget presenters and explained that cuts are made and grants are maxed by the business administrator and department heads to keep costs down from impacting residents on a fixed income.

April 9, 2024

Councilwoman deJong recognized and thanked Dan Newman again. She said he is a treasure and an institutional wealth of knowledge.

Councilman Feinman said his family just rescued/adopted a dog, Sonny, and if anyone is interested visit OCHD.org and click on animal shelters. Stay safe.

Councilwoman Travers congratulated the Brick Memorial High School girls bowling team and dispatchers. She also thanked Dan Newman for his 30 years of service.

Council Vice President Ambrosino echoed Councilwoman Travers comments and also thanked the department heads for their budget presentations.

Council President Minichino echoed Council Vice President Ambrosino's comments.

Motion by Councilwoman deJong and seconded by Councilman Albanese to Adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Vince Minichino
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk