

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2023

5:00 P.M.

***MEETING WAS HELD VIA "ZOOM" APPLICATION WITH MEETING ID 349 802 0449

Mayor Jakubowski called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: "Notice of this meeting has been provided in a legal notice published in the Courier Post and the Retrospect; and posted in accordance with Title 10 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, specifying a 5:00 p.m. meeting time; and that formal action may or may not be taken at all Caucus and Commissioners meetings. Please be advised that this meeting is not being videotaped tonight."

Roll Call: Mayor Jakubowski, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Whitman are all in attendance.

Those additionally in attendance were Administrator David Taraschi, Solicitor Sal Siciliano, Borough Engineers Craig Reilly and Steve Bach, Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk, Rec Center, Library Board President, Tom Tassi, Police Chief, John Dymond, Tax Assessor, Jean Phillipa, Court Administrator, Kurt Bicking, OEM Director, Fire Chief Pat Slemmer, Brian Conte, EMS.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve minutes from August 1, 2023 Caucus Meeting, seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor-motioned carried; Commissioner Lee abstained.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve minutes from August 15, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motioned carried; Mayor Jakubowski abstained.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: N/A

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

RESOLUTION 2023-129 AWARD OF BID-FY 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – SENIOR CENTER INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS TO JOSEPH PORRETTA BUILDERS, INC. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous roll call vote.

Department Reports:

Borough Administrator /DPW Superintendent – Nothing to report.

Police Chief – Report attached.

Chief Finance Officer – N/A

Fire Chief – 46 calls for Audubon; 337 calls to date. The annual hose/ladder testing will be this week. Annual pump testing is scheduled for this month.

Borough Clerk – Nothing to report.

OEM – The EOP was approved by the State. Copy is attached. We are good for another two years.

Tax Collector – July and August reports submitted.

EMS – Report submitted. 95 calls for Audubon. 244 calls for the month. Staffed Audubon home opener football game.

Tax Assessor - Nothing to report.

Municipal Court Administrator – Report attached. Quiet and nothing to report.

Construction Code/Zoning Report - Report attached.

Engineer – Submitted written report. Highlights: Borough has been informed by the Camden County Open Space for the FY 2023 that they are in receipt of a \$25,000 grant for additional improvements to the Audubon Family Park. These are for EMS rockers and there should be four installed with the funds from the open space. Open Space in the years 18, 20, 21 and 22 were for improvements for Audubon Family Park for the resurfacing of the hockey rink and basketball courts and installation of the walking path. Those improvements have been completed. We just have to rain check the courts to ensure the water shoots off of them, but other than that the improvements have been completed. There was one additional year that the county released in their letter, that 2019 improvements have been installed. Will work with D. Taraschi to get reimbursed for that.

One last item was the resolution that was on the agenda for the 2023 CDBG additional improvements for the Senior Center for \$288,000 that will be put into the Senior Center. Mayor Jakubowski asked to be advised about the next meeting.

Library – The Summer Reading Program was a huge success. Over 46,000 books were read in Audubon over the summer. All programs are at record high numbers. Auditors will be onsite starting September 8. Barbara Ruff resigned from the Board of Trustees. Asked the Engineer to keep them in the loop for the improvements to the bathrooms so that the Library's schedule and other meetings are not disrupted too much and that everyone has access to the bathrooms. Steve Bach assured the Mayor that he would keep D. Ingves in the loop for communication to the Library when the work starts.

The Recreation Center- YMCA Summer Camp ended on August 25. They averaged 25-37 kids per week. It was a successful partnership, and they are hoping to double the numbers next year. I will set up a meeting in the next couple of months to start talking about next year. For August, there were five (5) private parties and a successful National Night Out for the police.

Solicitor – Two items for closed session. Jen McPeak sent a sample/draft to the Mayor and Commissioners for review as a starting point. This is the model ordinance that is implemented statewide. After years with our current ordinance with adding and diving things, we could try to fix and revise what is there, but the recommendation is that we entirely repeal what exists and replace it with a new ordinance. It was sent for review to make comments and ask questions. With the time of year and residents returning home after the summer, we are coming into the season with events, activities and elections. Sal's office will highlight the changes that are different in our ordinance vs. the new model ordinance per Com. Lee's request. Mayor Jakubowski would like to address "issues" that are ongoing and not necessarily a time frame issue attached to legislation. One example, per Com. Lee, Ocean City, NJ had many signs about stopping the windmills. Sal commented that this is ongoing legislation and would be considered political speech. As policy makers, the Mayor and Commissioners are being asked to decide what position they would like to take. Examples such as: Candidate vs. Specific Elections Mayor Jakubowski would like to explicitly mention these types of signs and this type of speech. Not sure of time, but it needs to be mentioned, in his opinion, in order not to create problems. Com. Lee would very much like to limit the number of lawn signs and the distance from the foundation. Concerns regarding signs right on the property line could change the intention. Per Sal, there are municipal joint land use laws that could help guide this and this could be legislated.

After much discussion, location and number of signs will be added. Com. Lee stated that whatever the final ordinance is, it should be easy to enforce. Enforcement is key. Other items to be added, placement in public areas or utility property. Moving forward, all comments will be emailed directly to the solicitor. The solicitor will work on cleaning up the document based on the concerns discussed tonight. Type, size, location, number and enforcement of the proposed ordinance and will be sure to include D. Taraschi, Zoning Officer. The deadline goal will be to introduce the new sign ordinance for the Caucus or Commissioner meeting in October. All agreed that this is possible.

Sustainable Audubon – Meeting tomorrow night. Co-hosting a shredding event with Haddon Heights. This will be paper shredding and electronics shredding together on October 14, 2023 9:00-12:00. In partnership with PSEG and Sustainable NJ, SA is promoting home energy assessments. Look for additional information on that in the future, they will have their own page on social media and on the Borough page soon.

Open Session: Commissioner Whitman made a motion to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor; motion carried.

Being there was no discussion, Commissioner Lee made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Commissioner Whitman -All in favor; motion carried.

Board of Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Whitman- The State decided to push the Anchor Program out again this year. November 1st is the deadline. Kudos to Chief Slemmer for adding some more members to the fire department at our last meeting. Kudos to our engineers and Bellmawr for a job well done at the Audubon Family Park. Expressed a minor concern of puddling in one area. C. Reilly, Engineer, agreed to put eyes on it. Com. Lee has a picture of this area and will forward it to engineers.

Commissioner Lee – Reminding residents that it is the start of the school year and to be conscious of stop signs and parking regulations. The police department did place a sign reminding parents where to drop off students hoping to discourage drop off in the middle of the street. Asked D. Taraschi about update from PSEG. D. Taraschi commented that he has a meeting with PSEG to go over the paving restoration and then has another meeting at the end of the month, with whichever commissioner would like to attend, with Public Service and the contractor. Will be able to discuss our concerns with the list etc. Anticipates being pleased with the outcome.

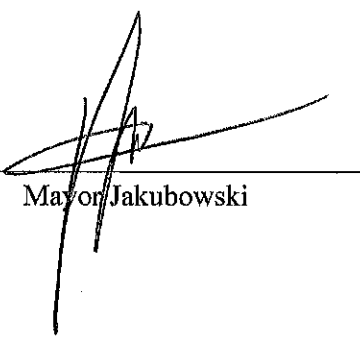
Mayor Jakubowski – I would like to thank all the Borough employees. It was a long summer, but it is over now. Leaf season is going to get started soon and our public works guys always work hard and double the work they day after a holiday. Huge thank you to them!

RESOLUTION 2023-130 CLOSED SESSION FOR LITIGATION The foregoing resolution to go into closed session was approved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried at 5:32 pm

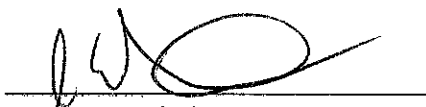
Commissioner Mayor Jakubowski made a motion to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in-favor motion carried.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 P.M.



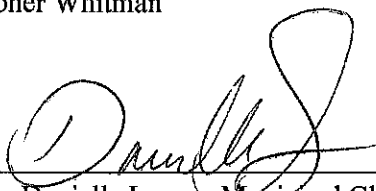
Mayor Jakubowski



Commissioner Whitman



Commissioner Lee

ATTEST: 

Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED : 9/19/2023