

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 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, Solicitors Sal Siciliano and Jennifer McPeak, Borough Engineers Steve Bach & Craig Reilly, Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk, Library Board President, Tom Tassi, Police Chief, Jean Phillips, Court Administrator, Brian Conte, EMS, Pat Slemmer, Fire Chief, Kurt Bicking, OEM Director, Megan Giordano, Tax Collector, Richard Hunt, Parker McCay.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve minutes from October 17, 2023 Commissioners' meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motioned carried.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: N/A

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

RESOLUTION 2023-153 APPROVING A SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMIT FOR JANUARY 20, 2024 for TAVISTOCK HILLS SWIMMING CLUB. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 2023-154 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA WHALEN TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AUDUBON VACATED BY BARBARA RUFF FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM DECEMBER 31, 2025. The foregoing was approved by motion of Mayor Jakubowski, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in-favor motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2023-155 AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AND GREAT AMERICAN GAS & ELECTRIC, LLC AND UGI ENERGY SERVICES, FOR THE PROVISION OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLY SERVICES UNDER THE SOUTH JERSEY POWER COOPERATIVE. The foregoing motion was approved by motion by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous roll call vote.

Department Reports:

Borough Administrator /DPW Superintendent – Hoping to bring Public Services work to a close. Some of those streets off of Merchant Street and Merchant Street itself will have to wait until 2024, but the vast majority will be done by the end of November/early December. It is disruptive and we understand that and even chaotic at times. They are making decent progress. It has been a two-year project, and everyone has been struggling with it. We are happy that it is about to conclude.

Leaf collection has begun in Audubon. Just a reminder that the leaves belong on the curb strip and not out on the street. That is a big help to Public Works because when it rains the leaves don't dry out and it doesn't let the street drain either. It makes it so much easier if they are on the strip for our guys to not have to walk through them when they can blow them dry and then suck them up. We understand some strips are too small and it is hard to keep on the strip, but any help the residents can provide is appreciated.

Working on the year end items for the 2024 budget. Talking with Jack Bruno several times a day and we will have a philosophical plan on beginning 2024's budget, but we won't get in to deep until January.

Police Chief – Report attached. Public Services is making good time on road work. Responded to an earlier question from Commissioner Lee about Wyoming Ave and stated that Pioneer has some restoration to still do on Wyoming that will probably delay paving until next year.

Chief Finance Officer – Nothing to report.

Fire Chief – 59 calls for Audubon; 446 calls to date. Expect to hit over 500 calls this year. The Christmas parade is coming up for the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Borough Clerk – General Election was yesterday, November 7, 2023. There was a steady flow, but no concerns.

OEM – There is now internet at the Senior Center and shortly will be over at OEM. The police wanted to be informed when that happens. Still waiting for materials for the CPR classes.

Tax Collector – Report submitted. It has been very busy taking in tax payments. The tax sale is scheduled for November 30, 2023. Linda has been working hard to get payments in before the tax sale.

EMS – Report submitted. 127 calls for Audubon. 257 calls for the month. He is working on documents for Mayor Jakubowski.

Tax Assessor - Excused. Nothing to report.

Municipal Court Administrator – Report attached.

Construction Code/Zoning Report - Report attached.

Engineer – Submitted written report. The NJDOT has issued \$257,528 grant under the fiscal year 2024 project towards resurfacing Hampshire Road Phase II and North Merchant Street. That is one of the largest awards for the boroughs. For Senior Center improvements, the pre-construction meeting was held and Notice Received was issued. This is the extra supplemental community development block grant funding that the borough received. Construction will commence as soon as we receive the construction permits. We are coordinating with the contractor on a daily basis to see what they need to help get the permits issued and underway.

The third and final thing to highlight is the fiscal year 2022 DOT project of East Pine, the pre-construction meeting was held on November 2 and Notice Received was issued the week of November 6 and we should be coming up soon probably next week for the construction on or about the 13th. We apologize for additional construction in town, but we have to get this project done per the DOT requirements. If there are no other questions, we will rely on our written reports. Per D. Taraschi, the permits should be ready in the construction office.

Library – Good news on the library front. The audit was completed and there were zero findings. Kudos to our new director who started in the middle of the year last year. We appointed a new trustee tonight so we will be at full capacity once again. The library had to cancel many programs for November and December due to the construction in the Senior Center. We hope to come back strong in January.

The Recreation Center October had four private parties and one non-profit. We are booked for November and December. We had the elections there yesterday and we are moving Young at Heart to the facility for November and December due to the construction at the Senior Center.

Solicitor – Two items for closed session.

Sustainable Audubon – They are busy as usual, but nothing to report this month. Their meetings are the first Wednesday of every month.

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

Being there was no one from the public and 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 – It was nice to come back to town after a few days away and see how much progress has been made on the road work. There will be a lot of work this week around the high school as the kids are off. Thanks for the coordination between the APD and Public Service.

Commissioner Lee – Noticed a relationship between freshly paved roads and speeding. Request the APD to keep an eye out for that and remind residents that just because it is a whole lot smoother than it has been, there is no reason to be heavy footed. Other than that, it has been a good month.

Mayor Jakubowski – Reminder that it is leaf season. Reiterated the comments by the Superintendent of PW that the leaves should be on the curb strip and not the street. PW will be coming around weekly. They have already done a great job so far. Looking forward to the fire truck parade on Saturday, November 25. Residents have already been asking about the parade and we are all looking forward to it.

RESOLUTION 2023-156 RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND POLICY MATTERS. Motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman to go into closed session for litigation and policy. All in-favor motion carried at 5:14 pm.

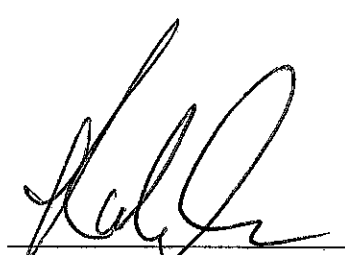
Commissioner Lee made the motion to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor motion carried at 6:04 pm.

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

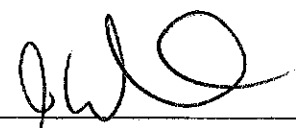
Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 P.M.



Mayor Jakubowski

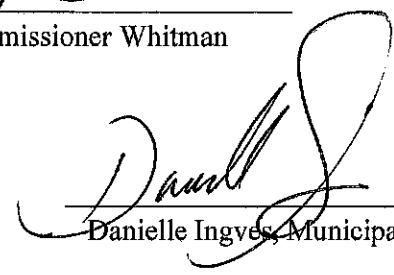


Commissioner Lee



Commissioner Whitman

ATTEST:



Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED : November 21, 2023