

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 24, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m. the Mayor called the meeting to order and the Township Clerk stated adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by forwarding a copy to the Courier News, Star Ledger and posting on the Township website, at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was contained on a list of meetings set by resolution dated January 4, 2023. This meeting will not substantially go past 10:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present:

Manuel Couto
Paul Donnelly
John Foster
Jeanne Kingsley (via Zoom)
Susan Poage
Jeff Varnerin
Angie D. Devanney, Mayor

Also present were:

Township Attorney: Alex Fisher
Township Administrator: Liza Viana
Township Clerk: Ana Minkoff

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Devanney asked everyone present to stand for the Flag Salute.

PROCLAMATION

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Mayor Devanney will mail the proclamation since the CASA representative was not present.

CONFERENCE SESSION

2023 Municipal Budget Presentation

Mr. Mannino CFO from HFA and Mr. Clinton Senior Advisor from HFA, presented on the 2023 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Devanney opened the discussion on this topic to the public.

Mr. Sincaglia of 22 Robbins Avenue asked what initiatives are different for the 2023 budget and extra items for the Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Police Department and DPW equipment. Mayor Devanney and Liza Vianna responded.

Two (2) Proposed Ordinances

- 1. No parking on Hamilton Avenue, both sides from the intersection of Plainfield Avenue for a distance of 200 feet west to the entrance and exit of the lower Columbia Parking lot. South side from the entrance and exit of the lower Columbia Parking lot for a distance of (300) feet west to the paved walking path.**
- 2. To create a parking space at the Municipal parking lot for internet-based transactions.**

**Township Council Minutes
Council Meeting – April 24, 2023**

Lt. Gaffney and Cpl. Cuocci of Berkeley Heights Police department presented on the two proposed ordinances.

Mr. Carrellas of 35 Sycamore Avenue spoke to the second proposed ordinance. Discussion followed.

Ms. Imbalzano of 215 Killarney Drive spoke to the second proposed ordinance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - PUBLIC MEETINGS - February 21, 2023, March 7, 2023,
March 21, 2023**

Approval of Minutes

Mover: Mr. Couto
Seconder: Mr. Varnerin
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES INTRODUCED ON MAY 23,
2023:**

The Clerk presented and read:

**“CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-
45.14).”**

That the Ordinance as read by the Township Clerk be offered on first reading and that May 23, 2023 be set as the date of Public Hearing and that the Township Clerk is directed to advertise same in the Courier News

Mover: Mr. Foster
Seconder: Mrs. Kingsley
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

INTRODUCTION OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Approval of 2023 Municipal Budget for introduction and establishing May 23, 2023, as date of public hearing and final adoption.

Approval of Introduction of 2023 Municipal Budget and establishing May 23, 2023 as the date of the public hearing and final adoption

Discussion:

Mayor Devanney commented on the salt dome shared service. Mr. Clinton, from HFS, responded .

Mover: Mayor Devanney
Seconder: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None

Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

HEARING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Opening of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mr. Donnelly
Second: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mayor Devanney read a statement regarding the procedures for public comment.

No voices were heard.

Closing of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mr. Donnelly
Second: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution approving Bill List dated April 24, 2023, in the amount of \$499,817.40.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Couto
Second: Mr. Varnerin
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

2. Resolution authorizing the application of the 2023 New Jersey American Water Environmental Grant Program, for Stormwater Infrastructure Maps, in the amount of \$25,000.

Discussion:

Ms. Viana commented that the resolution title is updated to “Resolution authorizing the application of the 2023 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Grant Program for Stormwater Infrastructure Maps, in the amount of \$25,000.”

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mrs. Poage
Second: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin

Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: *Approved*

3. Resolution authorizing a “Side Letter of Agreement – Promotions” with the Townships Department of Public Works.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Varnerin
Seconder: Mrs. Poage
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: *Approved*

4. Resolution supporting the Green Team in their efforts to renew the Township’s Silver Certification.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Couto
Seconder: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: *Approved*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Public Hearing and Final Adoption Scheduled for May 09, 2023.

The Clerk presented and read:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM RATE OF SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS, AND NON-UNION EMPLOYEES IN THE VARIOUS MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS.**

That the Ordinance as read by the Township Clerk be offered on first reading and that May 9, 2023 be set as the date of Public Hearing and that the Township Clerk is directed to advertise same in the Courier News

Mover: Mr. Foster
Seconder: Mrs. Poage
Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: *Approved*

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS

Council members provided Council Reports and Committee updates.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Devanney provided the Mayor's Report.

Ms. Viana provided the Administrator's Report

Approval of Township Council and Administration Reports

Mover: Mr. Couto

Seconder: Mrs. Poage

Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Result: Approved

CITIZENS HEARING

Opening of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mrs. Poage

Seconder: Mr. Varnerin

Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mr. Maciejewski of 40 Ralph Place had questions on bonding, capital expenditures, pilots, library tax and school payments. Mayor Devanney and Ms. Viana responded.

Mr. Carrellas of 35 Sycamore Avenue commented on the second proposed ordinance presented and questioned resolution number 4. Mayor Devanney responded.

Closing of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mrs. Poage

Seconder: Mr. Foster

Ayes: Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Poage, Mr. Varnerin

Nays: None

Abstain: None

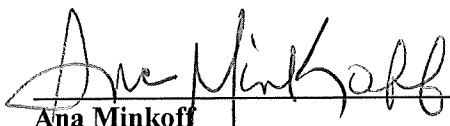
Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Varnerin to adjourn and all were in favor.

(8:31 p.m.)

Approved: May 9, 2023



Ana Minkoff
Township Clerk