Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights One Wanamaker Municipal Complex Post Office Box 797 Island Heights, New Jersey 08732-0797 (732) 270-6415 www.islandheightsborough.gov



Official Council Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

MAYOR DOYLE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. AND READ THE FOLLOWING:

This Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Island Heights is Hereby Called to Order. Notice of this Meeting was Provided in Accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by Publication in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger on December 15, 2021 and Notice was Also Posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough Television Channel and the Borough Website.

MAYOR DOYLE LED ALL IN THE:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATED OF AMERICA

MAYOR DOYLE REQUESTED THE:

ROLL CALL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AND BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS:

Council Member Baxter	Present X	Absent
Council Member Fumo	Present X	Absent
Council Member Gabriel	Present X	Absent
Council Member Pendleton	Present X	Absent
Council President Thompson	Present X	Absent
Council Member Weber	Present X	Absent
Mayor Doyle	Present X	Absent
Borough Attorney Mr. Zabarsky	Present X	Absent

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODOCED THE:

PRESENTATION BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOMS RIVER

Michael Frankovich – President of the Rotary Club presented donation checks to President Wilber of the Island Heights Volunteer Fire Company and Chief Greenfeld of the Island Heights Volunteer First Aid Squad. President Frankovich thank both organizations for their help and support of Sailfest.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE 2022-01 – SALARIES - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MAYOR DOYLE ENTERTAINED A:

Motion to Waive Reading and Introduce Ordinance 2022-01 as Proposed:

Motion: Mr. Gabriel Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Pendleton	Ms. Thompson	Mr. Weber	Mayor Doyle
<u>Yes</u> /No						
Abs.						

ORDINANCE 2022-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARIES AND HOURLY WAGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH

BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS that the Following Hourly Wages and Salaries Shall Remain in Effect Until a Subsequent Salary and Wage Ordinance is Adopted:

SECTION 1: The Salary and Hourly Wage Ranges for Employees of the Borough Shall be as Follows:

TITLE WAGES A. Mayor \$1,000.00 - \$7,000.00 **B.** Council President \$1,000.00 - \$4,000.00 C. Council Member \$1,000.00 - \$3,500.00 D. Affirmative Action Officer \$500.00 - \$1,000.00 E. Cable Television Officer \$500.00 - \$1,000.00 F. Chief Financial Officer \$2,500.00 - \$25,000.00 G. Clerk of Public Works (Utilities Clerk) Minimum Wage - \$20.00 Per Hour Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour H. Code Enforcement Officer Minimum Wage - \$20.00 Per Hour I. Code Enforcement Officer (Deputy) J. Construction Official Per Contract K. Construction Sub-Code Official Minimum Wage - \$40.00 Per Hour L. Construction Technical Official (Hourly) Minimum Wage - \$20.00 Per Hour M. Construction Technical Official \$1,000.00 - \$4,000.00 N. Emergency Management Coordinator \$1,000.00 - \$4,000.00 O. Emergency Management Coordinator (Deputy) \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00 P. Fire Official \$2,500.00 - \$10,000.00 Q. Human Resources Manager \$2,500.00 - \$20,000.00 R. JIF Fund Commissioner \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00 S. Municipal Clerk Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour T. Municipal Clerk (Deputy) Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour U. Municipal Court Administrator Minimum Wage - \$30.00 Per Hour V. Municipal Court Administrator (Deputy) Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour W. Municipal Court Judge \$2,500.00 - \$20,000.00 X. Municipal Finance Officer \$2,500.00 - \$25,000.00 Y. Municipal Finance Officer (Deputy) \$2,500.00 - \$10,000.00 \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00 Z. Newsletter Editor AA. Payroll Clerk \$2,500.00 - \$15,000.00 Planning Board Secretary \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00 BB.

CC.	Planning Board Secretary (Deputy)	\$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00
DD.	Public Works - Director	Per Contract
EE.	Public Works - Foreman	Per Contract
FF.	Public Works - Laborer	Per Contract
GG.	Purchasing Agent	\$1,000.00 - \$15,000.00
HH.	Police Captain	Per Contract
II.	Police Lieutenant	Per Contract
JJ.	Police Officer	Per Contract
KK.	Police Officer - Class II	Minimum Wage - \$20.00 Per Hour
LL.	Police Sergeant	Per Contract
MM.	Qualified Purchasing Agent	\$2,500.00 - \$20,000.00
NN.	Registrar of Vital Statistics	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
00.	Safety Coordinator	\$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00
PP.	Tax Assessor	\$2,500.00 - \$20,000.00
QQ.	Tax Collector	\$2,500.00 - \$25,000.00
RR.	Tax Collector (Deputy)	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
SS.	Zoning Officer (Hourly)	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
TT.	Zoning Officer	\$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00

SECTION 2: The Foregoing Salaries and Hourly Wage Ranges Shall be Effective Immediately Upon the Adoption and Publication of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: All Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances Heretofore Adopted in Connection with the Aforementioned Subject Matter are Hereby Repealed.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Resolution 2022-27	Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Reorganization Meeting and the Regular Meeting Conducted on January 3, 2022 (By Title)
	Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Mr. Fumo

Comments/Discussion: None

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Pendleton	Ms. Thompson	Mr. Weber	Mayor Doyle
<u>Yes</u> /No						
Abs.						

MAYOR DOYLE MADE HIS:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE TASK FOR 2022:

Steve Doyle, Island Heights Mayor, Ex-Officio member Sgt. Paul Rutledge, Police Department Susan Thompson, Council President Brian Gabriel, Council Liaison to Police Mitch Migdon, Citizen Representative Fred Defeo, Citizen Representative Gary Stocco, Code Enforcement Officer Sean Asay, Borough Clerk

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2022-28	Authorizing the Mayor, the Borough Clerk and the Borough Recycling Coordinator to Apply for the 2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant
	Motion: Ms. Pendleton Second: Ms. Thompson
Resolution 2022-29	Approving the Use of Wanamaker Beach by the New Logic Marine Science Camp, August $1 - 5$, 2022, Between the Hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM (By Title)
	Motion: Mr. Gabriel Second: Mr. Fumo
Resolution 2022-30	Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to Enter into a Shared Service Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutors Office for the Fatal Accident Support Team (FAST) Program for 2021/22
	Motion: Mr. Baxter Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2022-31	Approving the Use of the Borough Hall for a Meeting of the Central Regional School Board on August 18, 2022, Between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM (By Title)
	Motion: Mr. Weber Second: Ms. Pendleton
Resolution 2022-32	Approving the Scheduled Date for Sailfest as September 10, 2022 Pending the Final Application from the Rotary Club of Toms River (By Title)
	Motion: Mr. Gabriel Second: Ms. Thompson
Resolution 2022-33	Approving the Use of the Central Avenue Pavilion by Sidney Loundy for a Wedding on November 5, 2022, Between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM (By Title)
	Motion: Ms. Pendleton Second: Mr. Fumo
Resolution 2022-34	Approving the Use of the Wanamaker Field by Soccer Shots on Thursdays from April 7 to June 23, Between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM and on Saturdays from April 2 to June 18, Between 8:00 AM and 12:30 PM (By Title)
	Motion: Mr. Weber Second: Mr. Fumo
Resolution 2022-35	Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer and the Purchasing Agent to Issue a Refund in the Amount of \$28.00 for a Voided Marriage License Application to Samantha Marie Killmer of Toms River, New Jersey (By Title)
	Motion: Ms. Thompson Second: Mr. Baxter
Resolution 2022-36	Approving the Use of the Wanamaker Gazebo by Lauren Brink for a Wedding Ceremony on May 21, 2022, Between 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM (By Title)
	Motion: Mr. Weber Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2022-37

Urging the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature to Reconsider the Annual Toll Increases Adopted by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Motion: Ms. Thompson Second: Mr. Weber

Comments/Discussion by Council Members of Items on the Consent Agenda:

Ms. Thompson and Mayor Doyle explained why Resolution 2022-37 is being adopted by the Governing Body including the impact that the toll increases have on Ocean County commuters and that the legislature allowed the Turnpike Authority to put in place a system of "automatic" annual

toll increases that the Governing Body feels should be reconsidered by the legislature.

Comments/Discussion from the Floor on Items on the Consent Agenda:

Luis Taveres - Why are events being moved to the rebuilt Wanamaker Gazebo?

Mayor Doyle explained that events put a strain on the historic Central Avenue Pavilion and the new Wanamaker Gazebo offers a beautiful view of the bay and sufficient parking to handle events.

Bob MacNeal – What does the Quality of Life Task Force do?

Mayor Doyle explained the mandate of the Task Force and how they work to resolve certain neighbor disputes as well as blight and safety issues around the Borough in an informal setting.

Motion for Adoption of all of the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda:

Motion: Ms. Thompson Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Pendleton	Ms. Thompson	Mr. Weber	Mayor Doyle
<u>Yes</u> /No						
Abs.						

MAYOR DOYLE:

BILL LIST AND PROCUREMENTS

Resolution 2022-38

Approving Payment of all of the Items on the Bill List Submitted by the Purchasing Agent

Motion: Ms. Pendleton Second: Ms. Thompson

Discussion/Comments: None

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Pendleton	Ms. Thompson	Mr. Weber	Mayor Doyle
<u>Yes</u> /No						
Abs.						

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

DISCUSSION & PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Public Comment):

Andrea Arevalo – Vehicles continue to exceed the speed limit regularly on Lake Avenue. The Borough has no recycling or trash receptacles at our public facilities. The storm drains heads in the Borough should be cleaned regularly. I should not have to pay for a recreation badge.

Luis Taveras – Our DPW did a great job clearing our streets after the recent heavy snow fall.

Judith Carluccio – The ongoing beautification of our public spaces in the Borough is going very well and the town really looks great. I wish to thank the Mayor and Council and all of those who are responsible for these improvements. I visited the Borough Administrative Office on January 17th and was surprised to find that the Office was open for business. January 17th is a Federal Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and Federal Offices are closed on that date. I think that this holiday should be added to the list of Borough Holidays by Ordinance.

Bob MacNeal – The cap on the bulkhead at the end of Ocean Avenue needs to be repaired.

Robert Wilber – This Mayor and Council have been very supportive of the Fire Company and it is greatly appreciated. Your support allows to provide the level of fire service that our residents deserve and have come to expect.

Doug Platt – The recent blizzard displayed the level of coordination and commitment between our Borough Departments and First Responders, we prepare for such events in advance, everyone understands their role and our residents are protected.

Mayor Doyle – Thank you all for your comments:

Our Police Department has been working to address speeding throughout the Borough and Mr. Gabriel will speak to them regarding Lake Avenue enforcement. The Borough has contracted to purchase a radar feedback speed sign which we expect to be delivered in the next sixty days. This sign can be moved around the Borough to various locations to give speed feedback to drivers.

The trash cans at our public facilities were removed under a prior administration as they were being ransacked by birds, particularly on the waterfront. We have been working to find funding for receptacles that would be "bird proof" and not have to be emptied constantly, however these cans are very expensive. We ask that residents and visitors carry out whatever they carry in.

Our storm drain heads are cleaned regularly by DPW and they were actually cleaned out just prior to the last snow storm, however, heavy precipitation and ice carry debris into the street and the work to keep the drains clear is ongoing.

I have always treated the Martin Luther King Jr. day observance as a day of service and volunteering to improve our communities. The staff members at our Administrative Office are part time hourly employees, thus if we close the office on additional days, they lose a days pay. Our full-time employees (Police and Public Works) work under contracts that we negotiate with their unions. Any changes to the schedule of Borough Holidays would have to be negotiated with the collective bargaining units when the contracts come due. I would like to invite Ms. Carluccio to work with me to find ways that we can celebrate the legacy of Dr. King here in the Borough, ways that we can have a day of service, a day on, rather than a day off. I think that this would be a great way to honor Dr. King and we look forward to doing so next year.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Doyle – In keeping with the comments that have already been made this evening, DPW did an excellent job clearing the snow during the recent blizzard. Hopefully, for next winter we will have our new truck that has been on order for over six months.

We will be meeting in a few weeks with the County to give them our requests for work that we would like to see done on the County Roads in the Borough.

Our new Gazebo at the Wanamaker Complex is nearly completed. We hope to have several concerts and other events around the Gazebo this summer.

At the new Van Sant Park, the gaming table and sign are up and more work will be done this spring.

In May we will be installing new recreation equipment for our children that was purchased with grant funds.

DPW thinned out the grasses along River Avenue and we now have a clear view of the River.

Our Library is looking good with the maintenance of the building now being handled by the County, a savings for our taxpayers.

Mr. Gabriel – I have been meeting regularly with the leadership of our Police Department and the speeding issue on the Borough will be addressed. The Department is screening candidates now to hire an additional Class II Officer for the summer season.

Mr. Baxter – Our Municipal Court has now started its 2022 sessions, still on the Zoom platform for now.

The Borough had faced a legal challenge to the Ordinance that imposed a thirty day minimum on residential rentals. We recently received a decision from the Superior Court in favor of the Borough and upholding the Ordinance.

Mr. Fumo – Our Grade School is back to operating on a full schedule including some before and after school programs.

The new Grade School Foundation continues their efforts to raise funds to help with Grade School projects, please support them in their efforts.

Central Regional Middle and High Schools are operating successfully on full schedules without incident.

Our Recreation Committee will meet on February 23rd at 6:30 P.M. and all who are interested in participating are welcome to attend.

Mr. Weber - As the new liaison to administration I toured our buildings with Mr. Asay to get up to speed on our administrative and data systems. I was impressed by the organization of our Borough Records and how much is accomplished in the space that we have available.

As we are in a billing cycle now, I ask that all of our residents stay current on their tax and utility bills.

Ms. Pendleton – The new Gaming Table and Van Sant Park sign have been installed at Van Sant Park.

The Wanamaker Complex Interpretive Sign has been installed adjacent to the new Gazebo.

A new bathroom with a shower for decontamination at the First Aid Squad Building has been framed, plumbing is installed, electric is installed, and walls should have been spackled today and painted in the next couple of days.

The ceiling at the DPW garage has been repaired and replaced with a new corrugated ceiling to remediate OSHA safety concerns.

Our garbage truck has been repaired and the tires replaced.

DPW did a great job clearing our streets after the last storm dumped about sixteen inches of snow in town. They worked around the clock for more than 35 hours and then spent time clearing intersections after the County plowed their streets.

Public Works has been busy with general maintenance projects like replacing the front door at their building, repairing the heat in the Council Chamber and making sewer repairs on Ocean Avenue.

DPW added an external vent to the oil recycling shed that OSHA had requested and they completed repairs on the backhoe which took a beating during snow removal.

DPW has been dealing with continuous repairs to the upper railing at the Central Avenue Pavilion due to vandalism and after the last nor'easter we lost decking from our docks which had to be replaced.

In the coming weeks DPW will be installing a boot molding around the bottom of the Central Avenue Pavilion and columns to prevent the floor from lifting with every high tide or storm.

Finally, DPW has taken five truckloads of recycling and Christmas trees to the County Recycling Center in the past month.

The Island Heights Cultural & Heritage is planning the return of its annual Garden Tour Event this year. It has been impacted by Covid for the past two years. The Garden tour will be on Saturday, June 25, watch for more details as we get closer.

Island Heights will not be hosting a rabies clinic this year but you can find free rabies vaccines for your pet at both the Jackson and Manahawkin County Facilities. Jackson will be the first & third Wednesday of each month, and Manahawkin on the second & fourth Wednesdays. Go to <u>www.ochd.org/free-rabies-clincs/</u> for times and locations, by appointment only.

Ms. Thompson – Our Community Garden has a total of sixty-eight beds, four are opening up and four people are currently on the waiting list. As of today, we can accommodate everyone who wishes to be a gardener. Anyone else who may be interested should contact Lucy Scheer to have their name added to the waiting list should other beds open up. For those with an assigned bed please go to the Borough Administrative Office to sign your 2022 commitment form and remit your \$25.00 fee payable to the Borough. The amount collected for garden beds in 2021 was \$1,390.00, the expenses paid for by the Borough were less than \$100.00, in addition to the water supplied. The garden community appreciates Public Works assistance with the water supply and support from the County for the mulch that was delivered twice in 2021. A few highlights of 2021 were environmental education regarding gardening techniques, jersey shore native plant species and invasive non-native insect species. Fresh produce donations from the garden were made to the food pantry and the gardeners have managed the butterfly way station. Additional educational programs are being planned for 2022.

Our Environmental Committee which is Chaired by Tara Church on the third Wednesday of each month at Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M. The Committee's 2022 work plan includes; Sustainable New Jersey Certification Renewal for 2022, we are Silver Certified which is significant for such a small municipality.

We are participating in the Rally for Barnegat Bay which provides grant funds to towns that border the Toms River to identify non-point source pollution problems and provides resources to help abate the problems. The Committee is encouraging residents to sign up for a Zoom training session on February 23rd to be a citizen scientist to help with water sampling and other activities needed to diagnose the problems affecting water quality in the Toms River and Barnegat Bay.

Our Farmers Market will be managed by the Environmental Committee this year. We hope to see more farmers in 2022.

The Committee had received a grant for new playground equipment, the equipment has been delivered and is awaiting installation by DPW. Councilwoman Pendleton and I have talked about getting the installation on the schedule ASAP so that the grant can be closed out. The committee cannot apply for new grant funds until that is done. They are now planning for an application to the 2023 grant round.

The Committee wishes to thank Lucy Scheer who has resigned from the Environmental Committee. Lucy has been a member for many years and has made many important contributions.

In our Office of Emergency Management, Doug Platt has served the Borough's OEM Coordinator for the past thirty-two years. Our thanks to Doug for his continuing commitment to the Borough.

The 2021 OEM Budget was stable as it has been for fifteen years and will be in 2022.

Our Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) met on 1/8/22, I attended the meeting as Council Liaison and was joined by representatives from DPW, our Fire Company, our First Aid Squad, our Police Department, the Borough Clerk and our School Superintendent. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Platt.

We continue to ask all residents to sign up for the Code Red Reverse 911 service so that they may be notified of conditions during emergencies. We also request any resident who has health conditions such as limited mobility or oxygen supply equipment to contact the Borough with their information so they can be checked on during power outages and other emergencies.

OEM manages repairs and maintenance to the Borough's four emergency generators, two are being addressed now.

In 2022 OEM will be working on the preparation of an update to our Emergency Operations Plan which is due in 2023 and several table top exercises to train for emergencies.

Our Volunteer Fire Company wishes to thank Jon Brodbeck for serving as their 2021 Chief.

Congratulations to Mike McDaniel who has been sworn in as the Fire Company Chief for 2022. Mike has been a Member of the Fire Company for eighteen years.

They also wish to recognize and thank Rob Wilber for continuing in his role as the Fire Company's President for 2022.

We ask that you please support the fundraising activities of the Fire Company as their costs continue to increase, as an example one full set of Firefighter Turnout Gear costs over \$4,000.00.

The Fire Company is working through permitting and construction contracts for the new firehouse, the tentative start of construction will be in March/April. They are in the process of moving out of their current building to the steel building in the back where they will operate for the next nine to twelve months. The building project is self-funded with Fire Company funds and bank financing.

Please remember that fire hydrant access is critical, DPW makes efforts to clear access to hydrants after a snow but any help to clear snow or other debris by residents is appreciated.

The Fire Company is making plans for the return of Summerbrew in 2022, this is a great event which provides important revenue to the Company, more details will be out shortly.

Our First Aid Squad Congratulates Scott Greenfeld who was sworn in as the First Aid Squad's Chief for 2022, Gary Stocco will serve as President for 2022.

The Squad has thirteen members on their roster with five of those being active members and they have one intern. Staffing is their biggest challenge, qualified individuals and those who are willing to attend EMT training should contact the Squad for information on joining the team. Our First Aid Squad has mutual aid agreements with Beachwood, Toms River and Triboro First Aid Squads for back up when needed.

The Island Heights First Aid Squad was chosen by the Shore to Give fundraising non-profit. They are planning a very important fundraiser to be held on March 10th starting at 4:30 P.M. at the Garden State Distillery in Toms River. A \$30 donation will enable you to have a cocktail for a cause along with appetizers.

At our Post Office, the Post Master retired at the end of 2021, the position has not been filled yet.

MAYOR DOYLE ENTERTAINED A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 P.M. BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Asay Borough Clerk

The **Municipal Clerk's Office, Tax Collector & Water/Sewer Office**, are open Monday – Friday 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and Monday evening 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM; Fire Official, Construction and Municipal Court are open Monday evening 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The Tax Assessor is available by appointment only. Please call the borough hall at (732) 270-6415 for days and times of offices not listed above.

purchasingagent@islandheightsborough.gov April D. Elley, Newsletter Editor (732) 270-6415