

Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights
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Official Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023

MAYOR DOYLE 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 November 19, 2022 and Notice was Also Posted on the Bulletin Board at 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 STATES OF AMERICA

MAYOR DOYLE REQUESTED THE:

ROLL CALL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AND BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS:

Council Member Baxter	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Council Member Fumo	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Council Member Gabriel	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Council Member Pendleton	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Council Member Thompson	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Council Member Weber	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Mayor Doyle	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Borough Attorney Mr. Zabarsky	<u>Present</u>	Absent

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED:

Presentation – Rotary Club of Toms River

The Mayor and Council welcomed President Mike Frankovich and George Josephson of the Toms River Rotary Club as well as Mike McDaniel and Eric Johnson of the Island Heights Volunteer Fire Company and Gary Stocco of the Island Heights Volunteer First Aid Squad.

Mr. Frankovich presented donation checks to the representatives of the Fire Company and First Aid Squad and thanked them for their support and service to the Sailfest event and to the residents of the Borough.

Mr. Josephson asked the Mayor and Council to save the date for Sailfest for 2024 on September 7, 2024.

Mayor Doyle thanked the Rotary Club for their generosity towards our first responders.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED:

**ORDINANCE 2023-14 – FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED ADOPTION**

A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00) THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance 2023-14 is now open, persons who wish to comment, please ask to be recognized and state your name for the record.

Public Comments:

Kris Sabey – Commented on the use of irrigation meters

Ms. Thompson – Commented that these new potable water meters will give us increased accuracy in the metering of water and will provide revenue to the water utility in areas that are not now being accurately metered.

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion: Mr. Gabriel
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voice Vote: Yes: Unanimous No:

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Waive Reading and Adopt Proposed Ordinance 2023-14
as Introduced:

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voting Record:

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

ORDINANCE 2023-14

A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00) THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL (not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Description of Project:

The Borough of Island Heights (the “**Borough**”) hereby authorizes the following water infrastructure improvement project to improve, maintain and support compliance by the Borough with the drinking water regulations of the State of New Jersey and thereby improve the Borough’s water system (the “**Water Meter Replacement Project**”):

**IMPROVEMENT OR
APPROPRIATION
PURPOSE**

ESTIMATED COST

Water Meter Replacement Project, including replacement of approximately 925 portable water meters with new units within the Borough, including all other necessary or desirable structures, appurtenances, work, equipment, material and all costs of surveying, construction, planning, design, engineering, preparation of plans and specifications, permits, bid documents, construction inspection, administration, accounting, architectural, financial and legal.

\$1,200,000.00

Section 2. Permanent Funding of Appropriation

(a) To provide funds to permanently fund the costs of the Water Meter Replacement Project (the “**Project Costs**”), the issuance by the Borough of bonds in the aggregate principal amount of up to **ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00)** is hereby authorized, approved, ratified and confirmed. It is anticipated that the Borough will issue general obligation bonds of the Borough to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (the “**I-Bank**”) and the State of New Jersey, acting by and through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the “**State**”) pursuant to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Financing Program (the “**I-Bank Financing Program**”) to pay the Project Costs.

(b) In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:2-11(c), no down payment shall be required in connection with the issuance of the bonds for the Water Meter Replacement Project as this Bond Ordinance authorizes an obligation referred to in N.J.S.A. 40A:2-7(h) for purposes that are self-liquidating as described in N.J.S.A. 40A:2-45.

Section 3. Temporary Construction Financing From I-Bank Prior to Issuance of Bonds

In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds, the Borough hereby authorizes, if necessary or desirable, the issuance, sale and award of construction project notes (the “**Construction Project Notes**”) pursuant to the I-Bank’s construction financing program (the “**I-Bank Construction Financing Program**”). The Construction Project Notes shall be substantially in the form provided by the I-Bank in the I-Bank Construction Financing Program’s loan agreement. The execution and delivery of the Construction Project Notes and all additional documents and instruments related thereto by the Mayor, Chief Financial Officer and Borough Clerk (collectively, the “**Authorized Officials**”) is hereby authorized. The Authorized Officials are each hereby authorized to determine, pursuant to the terms and conditions established by the I-Bank and the State under the I-Bank Construction Financing Program’s loan agreement and the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and any subsequent Resolution of the Mayor and Council, the following items with respect to the Construction Project Notes: (a) the aggregate principal amount of the Construction Project Notes to be issued, which amount shall not exceed \$1,200,000.00; (b) the maturity of the Construction Project Notes, which shall be no later than two years after the date of issuance thereof; (c) the date of the Construction Project Notes; (d) the interest rate of the Construction Project Notes, which shall not exceed six (6.0%) per annum; (e) the purchase price for the Construction Project Notes; and (f) such other matters with respect to the Construction Project Notes as may be necessary, desirable or convenient in connection with the sale, issuance and delivery thereof. The Authorized Officials are hereby further authorized to manually execute and deliver and the Borough Clerk is hereby further authorized to attest by manual signature to such execution and to affix, imprint, engrave or reproduce the corporate seal of the Borough to any document, instrument or closing certificate deemed necessary, desirable or convenient by the Authorized Officials in their respective sole discretion, after consultation with the Consultants, to be executed in connection with the execution and delivery of the Construction Project Notes and the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby, which determination shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of each such document, instrument or closing certificate by the party authorized under this resolution to execute such document, instrument or closing certificate.

Section 4. Authorization of Bond Anticipation Notes In Lieu of I-Bank Construction Financing

If the Borough shall elect to forego the I-Bank Construction Financing Program, then prior to the issuance of permanent bonds and to temporarily finance the Water Meter Replacement Project stated in Section 1, above, negotiable notes of the Borough in a principal amount not exceeding **ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00)** are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. All such note(s) shall mature at such time as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer or such other Financial Officer designated by Resolution for these purposes (both being hereinafter referred to in this Section as Chief Financial Officer); provided that no note shall mature later than one (1) year from its issue date. Such note(s) shall bear interest at a rate or rates and shall be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with any note(s) issued pursuant to this Bond Ordinance, and the signature of the Chief Financial Officer upon such note(s) shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell the note(s) from time to time at public or private sale in such amounts as the Chief Financial Officer may determine and not less than par, and to deliver the same from time to time to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof as payment thereof. Such Chief Financial Officer is authorized and directed to report in writing to the Mayor and Council at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the note(s) pursuant to this Bond Ordinance is made. Such report shall include the amount, the description, the interest rate, the maturity schedule of the note(s) sold, price obtained and the name of the purchaser. All note(s) issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time for periods not exceeding one (1) year for the time period specified in and in accordance with the provisions and limitations of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-8(a) of the Local Bond Law. The Chief Financial Officer is further directed to determine all matters in connection with said note or notes and not determined by this Bond Ordinance. The Chief Financial Officer's signature upon said note(s) shall be conclusive evidence of such determination.

Section 5. Additional Matters

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared and recited and stated:

- (a) The said purposes described in Section 1 of this Bond Ordinance are not current expenses and are properties or improvements which the s may lawfully undertake as a self-liquidating purpose of a municipal public utility. No part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specifically assessed on property specifically benefited thereby.

- (b) The average period of usefulness of said purposes authorized herein, taking into consideration the respective amounts of said obligations authorized for such purposes, computed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:2-22 is forty (40) years.
- (c) The supplemental debt statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk and a complete duplicate thereof has been electronically filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this Bond Ordinance by **ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,200,000.00)**, and that the net debt of the Borough determined as provided in the Local Bond Law is not increased by this Bond Ordinance. The said obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance will be within the debt limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.
- (d) Amounts not exceeding **THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$350,000.00)** in the aggregate for interest on said bonds, costs of issuing said bonds, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses, a reasonable proportion of the compensation and expenses of employees of the Borough in connection with the improvements as authorized herein, and other items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 of the Local Bond Law have been included as part of the costs of said improvement and are included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

Section 6. Maturity of Bonds

The bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding forty (40) years from the date thereof or as may be approved by the Local Finance Board of the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey (“**Local Finance Board**”) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9(a) and 40A:2-26 of the Local Bond Law, as may be applicable. All other terms of the notes and bonds, including, without limitation, the dates thereof, the rate or rates of interest to be paid thereon, the provisions for redemption prior to maturity thereof, and the place or places for payment thereof, shall be as determined by subsequent resolution or resolutions of the Borough Council as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40A:2-16 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 7. Authorization to Contract

The Borough is hereby authorized and directed to enter into any and all contracts or agreements necessary, desirable or convenient to effectuate the financing program with the I-Bank authorized by this Bond Ordinance.

Section 8. Execution of Documents

The Mayor, Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Clerk are hereby jointly and severally authorized and directed to take all actions and execute all documents and instruments necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Bond Ordinance, including, without limitation, the furnishing of such documentation and information as may be required by the Director of the Local Finance Board. All prior actions taken by such officials in connection with the financing program authorized by this Bond Ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 9. Covenants

The Borough hereby covenants to take any action necessary or refrain from taking such action in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of the bonds and notes authorized hereunder as is or may be required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder (the “Code”), including compliance with the Code with regard to the use, expenditure, investment, timely reporting and rebate of investment earnings as may be required thereunder.

Section 10. Ratification of Prior Actions

Any action taken by any officials of the Borough in connection with the improvements described in Section 1 hereof are hereby ratified and confirmed notwithstanding that such actions may have been taken prior to the effective date of this Bond Ordinance and shall be deemed to have been taken pursuant to this Bond Ordinance.

Section 11. Application of Grants

Any grant moneys received for the purposes described in Section 1 hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvements or to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this Bond Ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized but not issued hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 12. Full Faith and Credit

The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to punctual payment of the principal and interest on the said obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all of the taxable property within the Borough for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 13. Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures

The Borough reasonably expects to reimburse any expenditures towards the cost of the improvements or purposes described in Section 1 of this Bond Ordinance and paid prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes authorized by this Bond Ordinance with the proceeds of such bonds or notes. No funds from sources other than the bonds or notes authorized herein has been or is reasonably expected to be reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside by the Borough, or any member of the same “control group” as the Borough, within the meaning of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-1(f), pursuant to their budget or financial policies with respect to any expenditures to be reimbursed. This Section is intended to be and hereby is a declaration of the Borough’s official intent to reimburse any expenditures towards the costs of the improvements or purposes described in Section 1 hereof to be incurred and paid prior to the issuance of bonds or notes authorized herein in accordance with Treasury Regulations Section 1.103-18, and no action (or inaction) will be an artifice or device in accordance with Treasury Regulation Section yield restrictions or arbitrage rebate requirements.

Section 14. Effective Date

This Bond Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication hereof after final passage, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Section 15. Capital Budget

The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this Bond Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE 2023-15 – Final Reading – Public Hearing - Proposed Adoption

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING AND REPLACING BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 3 – SECTIONS 2, 3 AND 4, ENTITLED “HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS AND SICK LEAVE”

The Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance 2023-15 is now open, persons who wish to comment, please ask to be recognized and state your name for the record.

Public Comments:

No comments

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion: Mr. Gabriel

Second: Mr. Weber

Voice Vote: Yes: Unanimous No:

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Waive Reading and Adopt Proposed Ordinance 2023-15 as Introduced:

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Ms. Thompson

Voting Record:

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

ORDINANCE 2023-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING AND REPLACING BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 3 – SECTIONS 2, 3 AND 4, ENTITLED “HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS AND SICK LEAVE”

The following shall replace Borough Code Chapter 3 – Sections 2, 3 and 4:

3-2

HOLIDAYS

- a. The following are the official Holidays recognized by the Borough:

New Years Day – January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Third Monday in January

Abraham Lincolns Birthday – February 12th

George Washingtons Birthday – Third Monday in February

Good Friday – Friday Prior to Easter Sunday

Memorial Day – Last Monday in May

Independence Day – July 4th

Labor Day – First Monday in September

Columbus Day – Second Monday in October

General Election Day – First Tuesday After the First Monday in November

Veterans Day – November 11th

Thanksgiving Day – Fourth Thursday in November

Friday Following Thanksgiving day

Christmas Day – December 25th

- b. If any of the aforementioned Holidays occur on a Sunday, the Holiday shall be observed on the following Monday. If any of the aforementioned Holidays occur on a Saturday, the Holiday shall be observed on the preceding Friday.

3-3

VACATIONS

- a. All full-time employees shall be entitled to the annual vacation leave allotments listed below:
 - 1. First Calendar Year of Full Time Employment - Vacation leave with pay shall be earned at the rate of eight (8) working hours for each full calendar month of service.
 - 2. Second Year of Full Time Employment – Twelve (12) Days
 - 3. Third Year through Tenth Year of Full Time Employment – Sixteen (16) Days
 - 4. Eleventh Year through Fifteenth Year of Full Time Employment – Twenty (20) Days
 - 5. Sixteen Years or More of Full Time Employment – Twenty Five (25) Days
- b. Vacation leave shall be taken within the calendar year in which it is earned on dates selected by the employee and subject to approval by their Department Head. Vacation leave shall not be carried forward into any successive year without the approval of the Mayor or his/her designee.

SICK LEAVE

- a. All full-time employees shall receive one (1) day of sick leave for every full month of service during their first calendar year of full time employment.
- b. Beginning the second year of their full-time employment, said employees shall receive fifteen (15) days of sick leave annually.
- c. Sick leave not used, shall accumulate from year to year up to a maximum of sixty (60) days. At the end of each calendar year, the Borough shall buy back all accumulated sick leave in excess of sixty (60) days at fifty percent (50%) of the full time employee’s hourly rate of pay.
- d. Upon retirement from Borough service, full time employees shall be compensated for any accumulated sick leave at fifty percent (50%) of the full time employee’s hourly rate of pay up to the maximum amount allowed by Law.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Resolution 2023-142 Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council Conducted on November 14, 2023 (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Thompson
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	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No
Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2023-143 Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to enter into an Agreement for the Purchase of Rehabilitation and Repair services for Borough Potable Water Well Number Nine as an Emergency Purchase pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6, from A.C. Schultes of Woodbury Heights, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$79,195.00

Motion: Mr. Baxter
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Resolution 2023-144 Approving the Dates for the Regular Meetings of the Mayor and Council in 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2023-145 Approving the Refund of a Property Tax Overpayment for Block 38.01 - Lot 24.19 – 128 Siddons Court - to Joseph Consolazio in the Amount of \$4,115.10

Motion: Ms. Thompson
Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2023-146 Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to Enter Into an Inter-Local Service Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutors Office for the use of the Phoenix Automated Property Reporting System (PAPR) by Members of the Island Heights Police Department

Motion: Mr. Baxter
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2023-147

Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to Execute a Four Year Collective Bargaining Agreement with PBA Local 352 for Certain Members of the Island Heights Police Department with an Effective Date of January 1, 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Gabriel
Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2023-148

Approving the Setting of Fees for Recreation Badges and Permits for Calendar Year 2024

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2023-149

Approving the Awarding of a Contract for the Purchase of Certain Protective Fire Turn Out Gear as a Proprietary Purchase from Continental Fire and Safety of Hamilton, New Jersey in an Amount Not to Exceed \$16,914.00 from the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Program

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2023-150

Acknowledging Receipt of the Engineers Recommendation to Award the Lake Drive Water Main Extension Project Contract (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Ms. Thompson

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

None

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

Elaine Defonzo – Commented on the sale of Recreation Badges by the Borough.

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

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	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No	<u>Yes</u> /No
Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

BILL LIST AND PROCUREMENTS

Resolution 2023-151

Approving Payment of all of the Items on the Bill List Submitted by the Purchasing Agent and the Fourth Quarter Service Agreement Payment to the Island Heights Volunteer Fire Company in the Amount of \$18,750.00 and the Invoice Provided by Mark Stewart Electrical in the Amount of \$5,272.00 (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Mr. Fumo

Discussion/Comments: None

Voting Record:

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

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Doyle - As we look around the world, we see lots of things that are concerning and often upsetting. Our families have often faced tough times as well, but our little town always manages to get through it all. We have worked hard to spend within our means and minimize any municipal tax increases. Borrowing is now very expensive and we avoid it whenever possible.

As this year began, we faced the challenge of maintaining our solid waste (garbage and recycling) services at a price that we could afford. The private sector vendors gave us bids that were three to four times what we had been paying only a year before and this would have resulted in significant property tax increases for all of us. We found another solution and struck a shared service agreement with Toms River to perform our trash and recycling pick up. Each household received two new robo cans from the borough and Toms River has done a great job! We have applied for an innovation grant from the State and we still hope to recoup the cost of the robo cans.

In 2023 we have continued with our maintenance and infrastructure improvements:

Ocean Avenue was paved by the County from Central Avenue to Long Point

On Lake Avenue the new Firehouse was completed and dedicated to those who have served the Borough for over 140 years. Our Fire Company continues their fundraising efforts to pay off the loan for the new building. My wife and I donated \$50,000 which we invite other residents to match. Please join us and support our Volunteer Fire Company any way that you can.

Our Volunteer First Aid Squad has done a great job for our community and they also deserve your support. Founded in 1949 they are one of last volunteer squads left in Ocean County.

More than a dozen new mature shade trees have been planted throughout our town on Borough properties to improve our tree canopy.

Our boardwalk restoration project continues, we are about half completed and now we move onto the next section on the west side of town. All of our boardwalk decorative light posts were repaired and painted.

On Central Avenue a dilapidated building was replaced with a modern office building.

The Siddons Court development has been closely supervised by our Construction Office and is now near completion with thirteen new homes added to our community, we welcome our new neighbors!

At Long Point, the groin that once protected our waterfront has been restored and we hope to see the erosion end after thirty five years!

Painting and restoration projects were completed at our Post Office and the Gazebo at Wanamaker Beach at Summit Avenue.

The water main that serves Lake Drive and the two marinas on that side of town is being replaced and in the spring Lake Drive and Holly Avenue will be restored and paved.

At our Public Works Facilities:

new dehumidifiers were installed in our water plant and a new computer control system came online that monitors our water quality around the clock.

A new well pump and metering system is being installed at our potable water well #9 .

We welcomed a new full time public works employee and our Public Works Director Jon Brodbeck and his staff are getting our town ready for the holidays and the winter to come. Please remember that these are the employees that keep our water system running, maintain and plow our streets, keeping our public spaces looking great and so much more, we all benefit from their dedication.

In our Police Department;

We promoted our Officer in Charge (Paul Rutledge) to the rank of lieutenant and created a hierarchy at the department that has true lines of succession and leadership. Our Police Officers and Supervisors answer thousands of calls for service every year, day and night and we thank them for their service to our community.

We focus on training in our Police Department and we are keeping our Accreditation current giving us a significant reduction in our insurance premiums.

Sergeant Caruso completed the Methods of Instruction Course and he now instructs at the Ocean County Police Academy.

Officer Bellomy successfully completed the Firearms Instructor Course and is now available to requalify all of our Officers and Supervisors

We welcomed a new Full Time Police Officer and two new Part Time Class II Officers.

Our new Police SUV was placed into service and all our vehicles received upgraded e-ticket printers and markings.

Our Police Station was improved with new HVAC equipment, lighting and insulation that will reduce our utility costs.

New fencing was placed around the Police Station to protect our antenna and generator equipment.

Let me thank our administrative employees and ask you to do so as well in this holiday season. These are the employees who answer your phone calls and emails and they are all dedicated to being helpful.

Lastly, a special thank you to our Council Members:

Susan Thompson, Council President

Robert Baxter

Alan Fumo

Brian Gabriel

Lynn Pendleton

Rolf Weber

They work hard and manage a large variety of projects and issues for the town.

My personal Best Wishes to each of you and your families in this holiday season. I love staring at the lights and remembering holidays past and those who have come before us and given us so much.

Be thankful for what you have, if you have friends and family your very rich indeed. And together we have this place. This town. And we are very blessed.

Mr. Gabriel – Our Police Officers had a very successful holiday event and toy drive on December 15th, a great time was had by all with a visit from Santa.

Our Officers issued sixty eight summons in November and targeted speed enforcement continues throughout the Borough.

Mr. Baxter – Our Planning Board will not meet in December as there is no new business for consideration. The Board will meet next on January 11th for reorganization.

Our Municipal Court receipts payable to the Borough will exceed \$35,000.00 this year, more than double that of 2022.

Ms. Pendleton – Our thanks to our DPW employees for getting the town looking great for the holidays.

We replaced two fire hydrants this month that had been struck by vehicles.

We patched East End Avenue where it had been disturbed by a water main break.

We tested our inter-connect system with Toms River to make sure that it will operate properly in the event of a water supply emergency.

It has been my privilege this year to work with our Public Works Employees, they are dedicated, hard working individuals who do so much for our town that we never see.

Happy Holidays to all and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Fumo – Our First Aid Squad responded to ninety percent of the 140 calls for service in the Borough so far this year. The Squad announces their new Officers for 2024; Mike Warren – President, Gary Stocco – Chief, Emma Lusnia – Vice President, Brandon Goodwin – 2nd Lieutenant, Ed Brown – Treasurer.

Our thanks to our Recreation Committee and Fire Company for their help at our Holiday Tree Lighting event.

Our children will be participating in the School Holiday Concert on December 14th and 17th at Central Regional.

Our Fire Company has ordered new outboard motors for their Fire Boat. In 2024, Robert Wilber will be President and Eric Johnson will be Chief.

Mr. Weber – Our schools will have a half day on December 22nd and then close for the holidays, reopening on January 2nd. Our new Class III Officer is working out very well. Sue Cowdrick will attend our January Council Meeting and provide an update on the Central Regional District.

Ms. Thompson – Please mail your letters and packages as soon as possible, the Postal Service has set December 16th as the deadline to mail for Christmas delivery.

Community Garden payments will be accepted at the Borough Office after January 2nd. Please contact Lucy Sheer with any garden questions.

Our Construction Office has conducted 732 inspections year to date and permits fees collected now total over \$120,000.00.

Our Code Enforcement Office has performed forty eight CO inspections and processed seventy five zoning applications and forty five tree removal applications.

Recreations Badges will be on sale tomorrow morning for 2024 for \$20.00 each.

Happy Holidays to all and our thanks to our Mayor for all that he does for the Borough.

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE DISCUSSION & PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR
(PUBLIC COMMENT):**

John Pendleton – Commented on the condition of the Borough Pickleball facility.

Mary Judge – Commented on the Bioswale at the Wanamaker Complex, Long Point Park and the lighting of the American Flag at the Wanamaker Complex.

MAYOR DOYLE ENTERTAINED A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sean Asay
Borough Clerk**