

Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights
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Official Council Meeting Minutes April 23, 2024

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON 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 22, 2023 and Notice was Also Posted on the Bulletin Board at the Municipal Building, on the Borough Television Channel and the Borough Website.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON LED ALL IN THE:

SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON 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	Present	<u>Absent</u>
Borough Attorney Mr. Steiber	<u>Present</u>	Absent
Borough CFO Mr. Palazzo	<u>Present</u>	Absent

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE:

MUNICIPAL BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED ADOPTION:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON READ THE FOLLOWING:

The Public Hearing on the 2024 Proposed Municipal Budget for the Borough of Island Heights is now open. Persons who wish to comment, please ask to be recognized and state your name for the record.

Ms. Thompson explained that the Borough is dealing with increased costs for employee health insurance, pension payments and insurance totaling more than \$100,000.00. The Borough has seen increased revenue from new homes and home improvements that will provide about \$46,000.00 in new property tax revenue. There will be half cent increase in the Municipal Property Tax Rate to cover the remaining increased costs.

Public Comments:

No Comments

Council President Thompson entertained a:

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion: Mr. Gabriel
Second: Mr. Weber

Voice Vote: Yes: Unanimous No:

Council President Thompson entertained a Motion to Adopt:

Resolution 2024-78

Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer of
The Borough to assume the Responsibility
of Conducting the Annual Budget
Examination

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Comments/Discussion: None

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

Council President Thompson entertained a Motion to Adopt:

Resolution 2024-79

Approving the Adoption of the
2024 Municipal Budget as
Introduced

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Mr. Baxter

Comments/Discussion: None

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE 2024-04 – Proposed Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, A CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND PROJECTS OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS AND APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) THEREFORE

Council President Thompson entertained a:

Motion to Waive Reading and Introduced Proposed
Ordinance 2024-04

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Mr. Baxter

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

ORDINANCE 2024-04

SECTION 1.

The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Borough of Island Heights (the “Borough”), as general capital improvements. For the improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$250,000.00 as required by the Local Bond Law. The total sum is now available by virtue of surplus funds available within the Capital Improvement Fund.

SECTION 2.

The Borough hereby authorizes the appropriation of \$250,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the following purposes (including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto):

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Post Office Improvements | \$5,000.00 |
| 2. Central Avenue Pavilion Roof | \$10,000.00 |
| 3. Boardwalk Replacement | \$50,000.00 |
| 4. Office Furniture | \$5,000.00 |
| 5. Fencing - Memorial Field - Basketball and Tennis Courts | \$80,000.00 |
| 6. Baseball Field Restoration | \$15,000.00 |
| 7. Boom Lift | \$60,000.00 |
| 8. Other Improvements to Borough Properties | \$25,000.00 |

SECTION 3.

The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are not current expenses. They are all improvements or purposes that the Borough may lawfully undertake as general improvements having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

SECTION 4.

Any grant moneys received for the purposes described in Section 2 hereof shall be applied to the direct payment of the cost of the improvements.

SECTION 5.

The Borough hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this 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 capital budget will be filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

Resolution 2024-80 Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council Conducted on April 9, 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Comments/Discussion: None

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 2024-81 Authorizing the Hiring of Michael Frankovich, Jr. Gregory Mellas and Matthew Mull as Part Time Seasonal Laborers in the Island Heights Public Works Department at an Hourly Rate of \$17.00 with an Effective Date of April 13, 2024

Motion: Ms. Pendleton
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-82

Approving the Use of the Wanamaker Gazebo by Lauren Plump for a Wedding Ceremony on August 3, 2024, Between the Hours of 4 PM and 6 PM (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-83

Authorizing the Setting of the Date of the Town Wide Yard Sale as September 21, 2024 (rain date – September 22) and Authorizing the Sale of Permits to Borough Property Owners who Wish to Participate in the Yard Sale at a Cost of \$10.00 for Each Property

Motion: Mr. Weber

Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-84

Approving and Authorizing the Proposal from the Borough Engineer for the 2023 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report Submission (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Fumo

Second: Mr. Weber

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

None

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

None

Council President Thompson entertained a:

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

Motion: Mr. Gabriel

Second: Mr. Baxter

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE BILL LIST AND PROCUREMENTS:

Resolution 2024-85

Approving Payment of all of the Items on the Bill List Submitted by the Purchasing Agent (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Mr. Baxter

Discussion/Comments: None

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Mr. Fumo – Our First Aid Squad is down two EMTs with one having been deployed by the Air Force and the other completing medical school and moving on to his residency. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to be drivers or EMTs and they will provide free training. Our Fire Company handled thirteen calls for service in April and conducted two drills. The Fire Boat is back in service for the summer season.

Our OEM Coordinator, Doug Platt wants to acknowledge all of our first responders who recently worked together in the search for a missing person in the Borough.

Mr. Weber – Our Elementary School, annual standardized testing is underway and the staff is offering training to students and parents on the use of social media. Our Class III Officer at the school is working out very well and the arrival and dismissal of students is very smooth each day.

On April 10th our DPW was part of a multi-agency effort with staff from Ocean County in cleaning out the drainage easement from Route 37 to Maple Avenue. More than two dozen staff worked together and multiple truckloads of debris and garbage were removed. The County also cleared the storm drains on River Avenue to keep storm water draining.

Comcast has been working in the Borough responding to numerous service complaints and they believe that the service issues have been resolved.

Mr. Gabriel – One of our Police Vehicles suffered a water pump failure that will be almost \$3,000.00 to repair. Our police officers issued seventy summons in March and over three hundred year to date.

Mr. Baxter – Our Municipal Court operations continue to improve and revenue is running ahead of 2023. I urge all Council Members to take the training offered by our insurance carrier, it is worthwhile and the Borough will get a discount on our premium.

Ms. Pendleton – Thank you to Mr. Weber for his work in coordinating the cleanup of the drainage easement, our DPW appreciated all of the help from the County to get the job done in one day.

Our water main replacement project continues on Lake Drive and will take several more weeks to finish. DPW will be working on the boardwalk and moving east from the ramp at the end.

Ms. Thompson – Our Mayor also sends his thanks to our DPW staff and the County for the work on the drainage easement cleanup.

Our Environmental Committee had a very successful Earth Day event with training for residents on composting along with activities that included litter pickup, textile recycling and the building of bat boxes.

At our Community Garden, volunteers installed new chicken wire to keep out nuisance animals and the weeding effort filled eleven garbage cans. The new water system installed by DPW is up and running and will be a big improvement for the growing season.

A note to all of our residents to be aware of the mental health resources that are available for those who may be struggling need help, you can dial 988 and get assistance immediately.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON INTRODUCED THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (PUBLIC COMMENT):

No Comments

COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMPSON ENTERTAINED A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM by Unanimous Consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sean Asay
Borough Clerk**