

# Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights  
One Wanamaker Municipal Complex  
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Official Council Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

## **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 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.

## **MAYOR DOYLE LED ALL IN THE:**

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

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED:**

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Resolution 2024-146                      Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council Conducted on September 10, 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Ms. Thompson

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

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution 2024-147                      Approving and Memorializing the Agreement between the Borough and the Island Heights Volunteer Fire Company as to the Purchase, Delivery and Final Disposition of a New Fire Truck - Pierce Enforcer Pumper – Ordered by the Borough in August 2024

Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Mr. Baxter

Resolution 2024-148                      Approving the Refund of an Erroneous Property Tax Payment on Block 46 - Lot 33.01 – 177 Maple Avenue and Approving a Refund to Arya Properties in the Amount of \$1,200.60

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Ms. Thompson



Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Resolution 2024-155

Approving the Use of the Wanamaker Complex by Purpose and Hope for a 5K Walk/Run on November 23, 2024 Between the Hours of 7 AM and 12 Noon (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Fumo  
Second: Mr. Gabriel

Resolution 2024-156

Approving the Setting of the Calendar Year 2025 Fees for Annual Recreation Badges and Daily Recreation Permits

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-157

Approving and Accepting the 2023 Annual Audit Report Submitted by Robert A. Hulsart and Company of Wall, New Jersey

Motion: Mr. Baxter  
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Resolution 2024-158

Approving and Accepting the Corrective Action Plan of the Municipal Audit Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

Motion: Mr. Baxter  
Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2024-159

Expressing the Opposition of the Mayor and Council to the Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) Rule Proposal by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2024-160

Approving and Authorizing the Proposal of the Borough Engineer for Phase I of the Simpson Avenue Groin Replacement Project in an Amount Not to Exceed \$36,600.00, Upon the Availability of Funds (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-161

Approving the Purchase of a Verdeflex Model Dura 15 Peristaltic Hose Pump as a Proprietary Purchase from Pyrz Water Supply of Harleysville, Pennsylvania, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,470.00

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2024-162

Approving the Awarding of a Contract for the Memorial Field Fencing Improvement Project to All Vinyl Fencing, LLC of Hammonton, New Jersey in an Amount Not to Exceed \$59,927.00

Motion: Mr. Fumo  
Second: Mr. Weber

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

**Ms. Thompson** – I am not prepared to completely oppose the REAL Rule Proposal from the DEP, I think it could be improved without being scrapped completely.

**Mr. Baxter** – I agree with the Council President, I would like to see some changes to the REAL Proposal but I do not oppose adoption outright.

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

**Michael Brick** – Commented on Resolution 2024-159

**Robert MacNeal** – Commented on Resolution 2024-160



## **MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:**

**Mayor Doyle** – Some areas of the Borough near the water have had issues with rats on their property seeking food and/or shelter. I encourage all of our residents to be vigilant in maintaining your property, speak to your neighbors and work together to be sure that food sources and areas of possible shelter are removed.

I urge everyone to stay informed, sign up for our Borough Newsletter and Email bulletins, check our website and television channel regularly for updates on Borough events and issues. Sign up for the Code Red (reverse 911 system) to stay informed in the event of emergencies.

The Borough received our annual audit report which raised no issues with Borough finances for the fourth year in a row. The report will be published shortly on our website.

Our road paving projects continue with Maple, Garden and Garfield underway and Holly and Lake Drive to start in November.

Work has begun renovating our new First Aid Squad Headquarters along side the Firehouse with occupancy expected by the end of the year.

Our new fire truck has been ordered and delivery is expected in 2026. As you know, we have no fire tax in the Borough which would cost each property owner approximately \$400.00 per year. In lieu of this tax, I urge all of our residents to join my wife and I and make a generous contribution to our Fire Company. Their hard work and dedication keep us safe and their excellent ratings help with our homeowners insurance rates.

**Ms. Thompson** - The community garden is used by sixty five Island Heights residents. In the summer of 2023, the DPW removed the open compost heap located outside of the community garden fence. This was done out of concerns that rats were living within the compost pile. During the removal a rat ran from the pile and up a garden path. This was the last time a rat was observed in the garden area. Since the summer of 2023, the community gardeners put all garden debris into robocans. The gardeners move the cans to the curb to be emptied weekly and roll them back. For a year and half there have been no sightings of rats in the community garden. Gardeners who visit regularly at various times of day have not seen rats.

The Borough hired an exterminator to inspect the garden and surrounding municipal buildings. No rats were observed in the garden.

Out of an abundance of caution DPW leveled and removed the butterfly/pollinator garden. That garden although a good idea had become overgrown. No rats or rat nests were discovered during or after removal. Several people have commented that the community garden looks better with the pollinator garden removed. The Borough set traps around its municipal buildings. The traps set and monitored by DPW have been in place inside the garden for two weeks. The only things caught in the traps were a bunny, a chipmunk and two squirrels.

All gardeners were directed by the Borough to remove any veggies that may have fallen to the ground and immediately tidy up any overgrowth. The gardeners have complied. The Borough has directed that all plant material must be removed from the garden by the November 15th closing date. That date is stated within the use agreement that every gardener was required to sign. Any plants known to be rodent repellents such as garlic, onion, rosemary and sage can stay. These plants are typically left over winter in a garden for continued growing in the spring. Some of these plants such as garlic are known to be toxic to rats. Should any plant material not be removed by the deadline, volunteers from the garden will be tasked to complete the removal by November 20th. Any remaining material after the 20th will be removed by the DPW. The gardeners have done everything that has been asked of them to deter rats from benefitting from the garden.

There are known conditions that can attract rats to residential properties. These include compost piles which are not contained by robust walls or in cans, vegetable gardens that are not tended, accessible crawl spaces, accessible areas under porches and bird feeders. Our residents need to survey their own properties to eliminate any conditions which might support rats. Residents need to help each other by communicating concerns to each other that may be affecting their neighborhood. The rat problem will be abated with the diligence of everyone affected.

Our Code Enforcement Office reports that 1300 Recreation Badges have been sold to date, 41 Tree Permits Issued, 44 Zoning reviews completed and 38 rental and sale property inspections have been completed.

Our Construction Office reports that over 300 permits have been issued this year with revenue of \$82,000.00 and over 600 inspections completed by our professionals. Permit holders can now request their inspections via the Borough's public portal on the construction page of our website. Also new on the website, a frequently asked questions button has been added to help residents determine whether their project may need a permit or zoning approval.

Our Environmental Committee will meet next on 11/20/24 and all are welcome.

**Mr. Fumo** – Our Fire Company has responded to 165 calls for service year to date. They have received new radios at no cost to the company from Toms River for both their vehicles and for firefighters to carry with them when in service. The company and the Borough express thanks to Toms River for their generosity in providing this state of the art equipment.

Our First Aid Squad has welcomed two new members and they have responded to over 200 calls for service this year. The Squad has begun work on their new headquarters on Lake Avenue along side of the Firehouse, they hope to occupy the new building by the end of 2024.

There is no evidence of rats living in the community garden space, they usually do not range very far from their birthplace.

**Mr. Baxter** – Our Municipal Court has no session in October, they will return on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Our Planning Board had an October meeting; they have no new applications pending.



**Ms. Pendleton** – With the warm weather our DPW is still mowing and landscaping our public properties. They completed water and sewer connections for several new homes in the Borough. Two pumps had to be replaced at our water plant. DPW also is assisting with the cleanup at the community garden as their season comes to an end. Leaf pickup will occur at the end of November.

The Cultural and Heritage Association is again hosting a pumpkin decorating event at the cottage museum on 10/26 and all are welcome.

**Mr. Gabriel** – Rat control is important and you need to be sure that you are using the right professionals so that other animals are not harmed.

Our Police Department issued 86 summons for the month of September and 620 for the year to date.

Our Fire Company thanks Toms River for providing approximately \$250,000.00 of new radio equipment to the company at no cost.

All of us have noticed the smoke, several brush fires are burning around Ocean County and they will continue until we see some rainfall.

**Mr. Weber** - I have sympathy for those in the Borough who have had to deal with rats, it is unpleasant but as the Mayor said we all have to work together and communicate and the problem will be solved.

I applaud the recent walk and bike to school event run by the Elementary School and we thank our Police Department for their support of the event.

**Mr. Zabarsky** – At the request of Mayor Doyle, I have been in touch with the Ocean County Board of Health and I will be meeting with them tomorrow to discuss any assistance that they can provide in locating rat habitats. I will provide a contact and list of services to Mayor Doyle.

**MAYOR DOYLE:**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (PUBLIC COMMENT):**

**Christine Maloney (Island Heights Librarian)** – Thanked the Governing Body for recognizing Friends of the Library week with a Proclamation. The Friends here in the Borough have been very helpful to our branch with volunteers and fund raising. The funds provided by the Friends have allowed the branch to purchase video and board games for our children and have provided support to the teen advisory board. The branch now has equipment to make videos and provide internet access to customers. Please patronize their upcoming book sale with many first run books for sale.

**Christopher Raiman** – Commented on the upcoming Purpose and Hope 5K event and thanked the Governing Body for allowing the event to take place in the Borough.

**Robert Snedden** – Commented on permitting procedures for residents who live on County Roads.

**Michael Brick** – Commented on the Community Garden.

**Peter Slack** – Commented on the Community Garden.

**Denise Summer** - Commented on the Community Garden.

**Zina Duerbig** – Commented on ongoing residential construction in the Borough.

**Ruth Dimarzio** – Commented on bird feeders and nuisance animals in the Borough.

Mayor Doyle entertained a Motion for adjournment from Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Fumo, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:20 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sean Asay**  
**Borough Clerk**

**ORDINANCE 2024-09 – FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING -  
PROPOSED ADOPTION**

An Ordinance of the Borough of Island Heights, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, amending and supplementing Borough Code Chapter 7 –Entitled –  
Traffic

The Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance 2024-09 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. Weber

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Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voice Vote: Yes: Unanimous No:

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Waive Reading and Adopt Proposed Ordinance  
2024-09 as Introduced

Motion: Ms. Thompson  
Second: Mr. Weber

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 2024-09**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOROUGH CODE  
CHAPTER 7 – ENTITLED – TRAFFIC**

Borough Code Chapter 7-6.2 shall be amended and supplemented as follows:

**Intersection**

Lake Avenue and Siddons Court

**Stop Sign On**

Siddons Court

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:**

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Resolution 2024-135

Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting  
of the Mayor and Council Conducted on August 13, 2024  
(By Title)

Motion: 11 Mr. Gabriel  
Second: Mr. Weber



Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2024-140

Approving the Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 23-00001 on Block 15 – Lot 8 – 31 Ocean Avenue in the Amount of \$2,299.45 Payable to Pro Cap 8 FBO First Trust Bank of Fort Washington, PA

Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2024-141

Approving the Use of the Wanamaker Field by Soccer Shots for Practice Sessions from August 31 to November 2, 2024 (Saturdays – 9 AM to 11:30 AM, Thursdays – 5 PM to 6:30 PM) (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Fumo  
Second: Mr. Baxter

Resolution 2024-142

Accepting the Resignations of Jonathan McLaughlin and Alex Rosario from the Island Heights Police Department with an Effective Date of June 29, 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Gabriel  
Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2024-143

Expressing the Appreciation of the Borough and the Mayor and Council to Aerial Intelligence, LLC of Lavallette, New Jersey for the Recent Cleaning of our Water Tower at No Cost to the Borough

Motion: Ms. Pendleton  
Second: Mr. Baxter

Resolution 2024-144

Authorizing the Refund of Construction and Zoning Escrow in the Amount of \$2,460.00 on Block 2 – Lot 5 – 111 Sassafra Lane - to E. Steven Doyle of 13Island Heights, New Jersey

Motion: Mr. Fumo  
Second: Mr. Baxter

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

**Mayor Doyle** – This will be the last approval for Soccer Shots to use Borough property as they are transitioning to a “for profit” entity and the use of Borough property would not be appropriate, The Borough Clerk will so advise them.

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

No Comments

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/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.

**Mayor Doyle** abstained as to Resolution 2024-144.

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:**

**BILL LIST AND PROCUREMENTS:**

Resolution 2024-145

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

Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Ms. Thompson

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

**MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:**

**Mr. Fumo** – Our First Aid Squad has received 167 calls for service this year, their response rate is near ninety percent. The Squad did an excellent job providing EMS coverage for Sailfest and we thank Manchester and South Toms River EMS for providing staffing and equipment as back up.

Our Fire Company had another very successful and well attended Labor Day Games and thanks to all who volunteer and participate to make it a great event. The Fire Company reminds everyone that Trucktoberfest is upcoming on October 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 AM, all are welcome.

**Mr. Gabriel** – As we memorialized on tonight’s agenda, two of our Class II part time Officers resigned and moved on to other full time opportunities and we thank them for their service to the Borough and wish them well in their new positions. Our Officers continue with traffic and parking enforcement efforts and fifty nine summons were issued in the past month.

**Mr. Weber** – Our Elementary School is open for the fall and Back to School Night will take place on September 12<sup>th</sup>. They will celebrate Veterans Day in front of the school on November 11<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to attend.

Betsy Hyle will provide a report on the work of the Friends of the Library Committee for the Governing Body.

**Ms. Pendleton** – DPW continues with the Boardwalk replacement project with more lumber being delivered this week. DPW responded to a waste water lift station pump failure on West End Avenue and one of the two pumps was replaced. DPW has begun a project to replace the windows at the Borough Office to improve our energy efficiency in heating and cooling.

Our Cultural and Heritage Association will host a pumpkin decorating event for all ages after the success of last years event. Also, their speaker series at the Ocean County Artists Guild continues with a John Adams impersonator and a shipwreck expert upcoming.

**Ms. Thompson** – The new flooring has been installed in the back office area of our Post Office and it is a great improvement.

Our Environmental Committee had a table at Sailfest and shared some great information on sustainability that we can all use in our own backyards.

Our Community Garden is beginning to wrap up for the season and clean ups of the beds will be underway.

Our Construction Office has processed permits totaling \$68,523.00 year to date.  
Our Code Enforcement Office has sold 1,300 Recreation Badges while completing 35 occupancy inspections and processing 37 zoning applications and 32 tree removal permits.

**Mayor Doyle** – Our townwide yard sale is taking place on September 21<sup>st</sup>, please obtain a permit from the office to participate.

Our water meter replacement project is under final review for a start date by the State and we hope have a response within thirty days.

The new fire truck has been ordered and the Borough made a seventy 75% down payment from our cash reserves and the balance will be due upon delivery in two to four years.

Work on our fall road projects will start in the next few weeks with five roads being repaired and repaved (Holly Ave., Lake Drive, Maple Ave., Garden Ave. and Garfield Ave.)

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

**Betsy Hyle** – Provided a report to the Governing Body on the work of the Friends of the Library Committee:

Working with our Librarian (Christine) the Committee has recruited eighteen volunteers who are now helping with programming at the Library.

The Committee acquired a new Nintendo Video Game Set and several new board games using funds that they raised privately.

Their various reading programs continue for adults and children with over one thousand books read during the summer months.

**Mayor Doyle** – Thanked Ms. Hyle and all of the Committee Members and Volunteers for all that they do to enhance the Library Experience for all of us.

**Michael Brick** – Commented on nuisance animals in the Borough.

### **MAYOR DOYLE ENTERTAINED A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: Mr. Gabriel

Second: Mr. Weber

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:40 PM in Memory of Sally Powers who recently passed away.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Sean Asay**  
**Borough Clerk**