

Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights
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Official Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 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>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 THE:

PRESENTATION BY THE TOMS RIVER ROTARY CLUB

George Josephson of the Toms River Rotary Club was introduced, he thanked the Governing Body and the residents of the Borough for hosting Sailfest each year as It is the primary fundraiser for their foundation.

Mr. Josephson present donation checks to:

Tim Paar of the Island Heights Volunteer Fire Company and Gary Stocco of the Island Heights Volunteer First Aid Squad. Both organizations thanked the Rotary Club for their generous donations.

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE:

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Resolution 2024-170 Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council Conducted on November 12, 2024 (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Thompson
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Comments/Discussion: None

Voting Record:

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

MAYOR DOYLE INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 2024-171 Approving and Establishing the Amount of Deferred Local School Taxes for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024

Motion: Ms. Thompson
Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2024-172

Approving and Establishing the Amount of
Deferred Regional School Taxes for the Fiscal
Year Ending December 31, 2024

Motion: Ms. Thompson

Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2024-173

Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to
Execute a Contract between the Borough and Brian
Hoffnagle for the Position of Back-Up Water Plant
Operator

Motion: Ms. Thompson

Second: Mr. Gabriel

Resolution 2024-174

Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to
Execute a Shared Services Agreement with the
Ocean County Board of Health for the Provision of
Animal Facility Services (By Title)

Motion: Ms. Thompson

Second: Mr. Baxter

Resolution 2024-175

Approving and Providing for the Insertion of a
Special Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget of the
Borough Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 –
Recycling Tonnage Grant

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Ms. Thompson

Resolution 2024-176

Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to
Execute a Non-Exclusive Contract with Republic
Services for Calendar Year 2025 for the Provision
of Hauling Services for Recycling and Yard Waste
Containers

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Mr. Gabriel

Resolution 2024-177

Approving a “Save the Date” for Sailfest for September 6, 2025 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Gabriel

Second: Mr. Baxter

Resolution 2024-179

Approving and Providing for Transfers Between Budget Appropriations Contained in the 2024 Municipal Budget

Motion: Mr. Baxter

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

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 INTRODUCED THE BILL LIST AND PROCUREMENTS:

Resolution 2024-178

Approving Payment of all of the Items on the Bill List Submitted by the Purchasing Agent and Partial Payment to Fiore Paving Company in the Amount of \$387,300.62 and Payment to Key Tech Laboratories for Core Sampling and Testing in the Amount of \$2,310.00 for the Garden, Garfield and Maple Avenue Paving Project (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Weber
Second: Mr. Fumo

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:

Mayor Doyle – As this is our last meeting of the year, I would like to reflect back on some of the accomplishments by our team.

Public Works

Completed the engineering, curbing, drainage and paving of Garfield and Garden and Maple Avenues as well as Holly Avenue and Lake Drive

Completed cleaning of our water tower using drones with the service donated to the Borough

Received a grant for \$170,000 from the State to cover the cost of the new garbage and recycling receptacles received by every property owner

Received a \$500,000 infrastructure grant from Ocean County to cover the water main replacement project on Holly Avenue and Lake Drive

Continued work on the boardwalk replacement project

Hired two new full time employees bringing staffing up to four full time employees that oversee the public works and our water and sewer systems joined by three part time employees

The stone pillar at the Wanamaker Complex entrance was rebuilt and the lighting was restored.

New sewer and water service lines were installed where several new homes have been constructed in the Borough.

The Central Avenue Pavilion was repaired and the last original pillar was replaced.

Engineering and permitting work has begun to replace the groin at the Central Avenue Pavilion to protect the historic building.

Repairs were completed and new flooring was installed at our Post Office Building which we own and lease to the postal service.

A Major Water pump was replaced at the well that provides potable water to the Borough, these maintenance repairs occur about every fifteen years.

Twenty new hardwood trees were planted on Borough properties to augment our tree canopy.

Police Department

A new Dodge Durango was placed into service purchased with cash from surplus funds.

The Department answers approximately 600 calls per month with a staff of six full time officers and supervisors and four part time officers.

A part time administrative assistant was hired providing faster response time to resident inquiries and requests for reports

The interior of the police station was upgraded with new HVAC and lighting, new insulation was added to the attic and the interior of the building was painted.

New furniture including desks and chairs were installed for Officers and Supervisors

IT upgrades were completed with new desktop computers installed and upgraded software acquired.

Officer and Supervisor in service training included: DUI Testing Equipment, Juvenile Offender procedures, traffic radar, Active Shooter, Firearms Instructor and Glock Armorers Certification.

Officers and Supervisors are now Teaching the "Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence" (L.E.A.D.) curriculum at the Island Heights Elementary School.

Construction Office

For 2024, a total of 337 UCC permits were issued by the Office resulting in revenue of \$89,000.00

Permitted improvements to properties in the Borough totaled over five million dollars

Our five part time UCC inspectors completed a total of 735 inspections

Webpage enhancements were completed with frequently asked questions and guidance for property owners on obtaining UCC permits when necessary

UCC inspections can now be requested via the Borough Website public construction portal or via email to the Office

Ms. Hummel completed her new staff training and is certified as a Construction Technical Assistant

Clerk's Office

The Borough Newsletter and supplements now have over 1,000 email subscribers

The Borough water/sewer Ordinance was updated to simplify billing and prepare for new water meters to be installed in 2025

The Borough Television Channel was enhanced to include a streaming service and new content that provides, news, information, weather, local sports and the promotion of local organizations

The Borough received a clean audit report for the fourth year in a row with no exceptions noted. A rare feat among municipal governments.

Environmental Committee

The Borough received a recertification from Sustainable Jersey at the Bronze level recognizing the Borough's commitment to sustainable practices in all operations.

The Borough celebrated Earth Day in April with classes on composting and other recycling practices. Free saplings were distributed to be planted by property owners throughout the Borough.

Fire Company

The Borough worked with the Fire Company to place an order for a new fire truck expected to be delivered in 2026. The Fire Company contributed \$250,000 towards the new truck from funds that they raised, the Borough will cover the rest of the cost.

Our Fire Company volunteers held their annual Summerbrew Event, Labor Day Games and Trucktoberfest, with their Santa run upcoming later this month.

First Aid Squad

Squad volunteers responded to 235 calls for service in the Borough so far this year.

Three new members have joined the squad and plan to receive EMT training in 2025.

Our squad is one of the last remaining all volunteer squads in Ocean County and residents are never billed for their services

The squad is preparing to move to a new facility that is being renovated in the building next to our new firehouse. This new headquarters will provide modern facilities for our squad and space for them to store all of their vehicles indoors and out of the weather.

Recreation Committee

Outdoor movies took place in the summer and fall

The easter egg hunt and Halloween pumpkin patch with beach bonfire took place in the spring and fall

Our holiday tree lighting on December 1st was a great success and very well attended.

Code Enforcement

Ms. Bryant joined the Office providing additional evening and weekend coverage

Over 1,300 recreation badges were sold

Our two code officer/inspectors reviewed and issued forty seven tree removal permits and completed forty eight property inspections for property rentals and transfers of ownership

Tax Assessors Office

All Borough Tax Maps were updated and digitized to allow for integration with the Borough's other data systems

All property tax appeals were resolved without the need for any litigation.

Tax Collectors Office

In total for 2023, the Borough collected \$7,856,443.54 in property taxes, portions of which were distributed to the County and our school districts, the remainder funds our municipal operations.

In December of 2023, an online lien sale was conducted for tax revenue due to the Borough to cover property taxes and utility charges. Another lien sale will be conducted in December, 2024.

Zoning Office

Our Zoning Officer and Deputy completed forty eight zoning permit reviews for Borough property owners.

I would like to thank our Borough Council for their support and dedication to our community. Susan Thompson, who has served as our Council President and a member of the Governing Body for over ten years, is stepping down at the end of 2024 and we are very grateful for her service to Island Heights.

I would like to acknowledge our Borough Employees that keep our town running and support our elected officials.

Our Police keep us safe under the leadership of Lieutenant Paul Rutledge and Sergeant Stephen Caruso.

Our Public Works Department is headed by Director Jon Brodbeck with Jason Murt as our Foreman and Water Plant Operator.

In our Administrative Office, our Borough Clerk works with a dedicated staff who make sure that our bills are paid, important documents filed and accurate records are kept.

I am very grateful that all of us are able to live together in this fine community where we accomplish so much with a spirit of camaraderie and volunteerism of which we can all be proud.

I want to wish all of you an enjoyable Holiday Season spent with your friends and family, safe travels and a healthy and Happy New Year!

Mr. Fumo – I want to thank Mayor Doyle for his leadership throughout the year and Ms. Thompson for her service as she is leaving the Council.

Our First Aid Squad responded to nineteen calls in the month of November. They have two new members who will be starting EMT training in 2025. Their new headquarters next to the firehouse is being prepared and they plan to move in early next year.

Our Fire Company answered thirteen calls last month and on hundred ninety one calls for the year so far. They will be swearing in their new officers early in the New Year. Santa will be around town on December 22nd.

Our OEM Office is updating the Borough Emergency Operations Plan and working on radio system upgrades for 2025. Everyone is encouraged to prepare for possible winter storms and make sure you are able to get cars off of the street in the event of a storm.

Mr. Weber – I want to also thank Ms. Thompson for her service to the Borough and to this Council. She has provided learned advice to me throughout our years of working together.

Oue Elementary School choir will be hosting their holiday recital on December 12th and they will be performing at our Police Department Holiday event on December 13th.

Enrollment for 2025 preschool at our Elementary School will begin on December 12th. Please contact the school office for details.

Mr. Gabriel – My thanks to Susan Thompson as she leaves the Council for her years of professional service to the Borough.

Our Police Department issued seventy three summons for the month of November.

The study that Ocean County commissioned on EMS services has been released for public review, it is worth a look.

Mr. Baxter – Our Planning Board will be meeting on Thursday, their last meeting of the year with one Resolution to consider.

Our Municipal Court has wrapped up their year, through November they had revenue of \$31,700.00.

My thanks to Susan Thompson for being not just a great colleague on the Council but also a great neighbor.

Ms. Pendleton – Our DPW has been dealing with some issues related to waste water lines and lift stations this past month, all were repaired and are back in operation.

Our HVAC system in the Council Chamber failed and we have contracted for the unit to be replaced before Christmas.

I thank Ms. Thompson for her service to the Borough and all of her sage advice to me through the years, you will be missed on the Council.

Ms. Thompson – Our Environmental Committee has wrapped up their year with some important accomplishments including the Borough’s renewal of status by Sustainable Jersey.

Under the leadership of our Mayor, we have made some amazing and lasting investments in the infrastructure of the Borough over the last several years and I am proud of what has been accomplished.

Our Construction Office inspectors have completed over 770 inspections this year to protect our residents. Over 200 permits have been issued for improvements to Borough properties that total almost 5.5 million dollars.

Our Code Enforcement Office has already sold dozens of 2025 Recreation Badges and they make great Christmas gifts. They have processed forty seven tree permits, forty nine occupancy certificates and forty nine zoning permits.

It has been my honor to serve on this Council and I believe that service is the key to everything we do and the reason that we have been able to accomplish so much together.

My best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

MAYOR DOYLE:

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (PUBLIC COMMENT):

No Comments

Mayor Doyle invited the entire Council to join him on the floor of the meeting room as a plaque was presented to Council President Thompson recognizing more than a decade of service on the Council. Ms. Thompson thanked everyone for the recognition.

Mayor Doyle wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Doyle entertained a motion for Adjournment from Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Fumo, the meeting was Adjourned by Unanimous Consent at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sean Asay
Borough Clerk**