

# 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

January 2, 2026

## **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **MAYOR DOYLE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:15 PM 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 Newark Star Ledger and Notice was Also Posted on the Bulletin Board at the Municipal Building, on the Borough Television Channel and 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 Healy	<u><b>Present</b></u>	Absent
Council Member Pendleton	<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:**

**ORDINANCE 2026-01 – Proposed Introduction**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS,  
FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARIES AND HOURLY WAGES  
OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH

Mayor Doyle entertained a:

Motion to Waive Reading and Introduce Ordinance  
2026-01:

Motion: Mr. Baxter  
Second: Mr. Fumo

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Healy	Ms. Pendleton	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.

**ORDINANCE 2026-01**

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:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>WAGES</u>
A. Administrative Assistant	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
B. Affirmative Action Officer	Per Contract
C. Cable Television Officer	Per Contract
D. Chief Financial Officer	\$2,500.00 - \$40,000.00
E. Code Enforcement Officers	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
F. Construction Official	Per Contract

G.	Construction Official (Deputy)	Per Contract
H.	Construction Sub-Code Inspector	Per Contract
I.	Council President	\$3,400.00 - \$4,000.00
J.	Council Member	\$3,200.00 - \$3,500.00
K.	Deputy Treasurer	\$2,500.00 - \$35,000.00
L.	Fire Official	\$2,500.00 - \$8,000.00
M.	Human Resources Manager	\$2,500.00 - \$15,000.00
N.	JIF Fund Commissioner	Per Contract
O.	Mayor	\$4,200.00 - \$6,000.00
P.	Municipal Clerk	Per Contract
Q.	Municipal Clerk - Deputy	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
R.	Municipal Court Administrator	Per Contract
S.	Municipal Court Administrator - Deputy	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
T.	Municipal Court Judge	Per Contract
U.	OEM Coordinator	\$2,500.00 - \$10,000.00
V.	Payroll Clerk	\$2,500.00 - \$25,000.00
W.	Planning Board Secretary	Per Contract
X.	Planning Board Secretary (Deputy)	Per Contract
Y.	Public Works (Utilities) Clerk	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
Z.	Public Works - Director	Per Contract
AA.	Public Works - Foreman	Per Contract
BB.	Public Works - Laborer	Per Contract
CC.	Public Works – Senior Laborer	Per Contract
DD.	Public Works – Principal Laborer	Per Contract
EE.	Public Works – Water Plant Operator (Backup)	Per Contract
FF.	Police Captain	Per Contract
GG.	Police Lieutenant	Per Contract
HH.	Police Officer	Per Contract
II.	Police Officer - Class II	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
JJ.	Police Sergeant	Per Contract
KK.	Qualified Purchasing Agent	Per Contract
LL.	Registrar of Vital Statistics	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
MM.	Tax Assessor	\$2,500.00 - \$30,000.00
NN.	Tax Collector	\$2,500.00 - \$30,000.00
OO.	Tax Collector (Deputy)	Minimum Wage - \$25.00 Per Hour
PP.	Zoning Officer	Per Contract

**SECTION 2:** The Foregoing Salaries and Hourly Wage Ranges Shall be Effective the first full pay period of Calendar Year 2026 and thus Authorized and Memorialized by 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 2026-17                      Approving the Proposed Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council Conducted on December 9, 2025 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Baxter  
Second: Ms. Healy

Comments/Discussion: None

Voting Record:

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

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

Resolution 2026-18                      Approving Change Order #2 for the Borough Engineer for the Water Meter Replacement Project in an Amount Not to Exceed \$15,000.00 (By Title)

Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2026-19                      Approving the Refund of Escrowed Funds for Block 46 – Lot 14 – 186 West End Avenue to; Ryan Donnelly of Island Heights in the Amount of \$32.00

Motion: Mr. Weber  
Second: Mr. Fumo

Resolution 2026-20

Approving Pay Estimate #1 to A. Larsen Construction, LLC for the Simpson Avenue Groin Project in the Amount of \$82,271.00

Motion: Mr. Baxter

Second: Ms. Healy

Resolution 2026-21

Approving and Allowing for Temporary Appropriations Prior to the Final Adoption of the 2026 Municipal Budget

Motion: Mr. Baxter

Second: Mr. Weber

Resolution 2026-22

Authorizing the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to Execute a Contract with Metertek of Kenilworth, New Jersey for the Provision of Services related to the Installation of Potable Water Meters with an Effective Date of February 1, 2026 with the Cost of Said Installations to be Borne by the Utility Customer

Motion: Ms. Pendleton

Second: Mr. Baxter

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

No comments

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: Mr. Baxter

Second: Mr. Fumo

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Healy	Ms. Pendleton	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:**

Resolution 2026-23

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

Motion: Mr. Weber

Second: Ms. Healy

Discussion/Comments: None

Voting Record:

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Fumo	Mr. Gabriel	Ms. Healy	Ms. Pendleton	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 PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (PUBLIC COMMENT):**

No comments

**MAYOR DOYLE – 2025 YEAR END REPORT**

Mayor Doyle referenced his report on the accomplishments of the Borough and the Governing Body in 2025:

As we all begin to reflect back on the year that was, please allow me to share with you some of the accomplishments and improvements around our Borough in 2025:

Public Works:

Our Department of Public Works and our Water and Sewer Utility under the capable leadership of Jon Brodbeck has dealt with multiple issues around water meter installations and hook ups for new houses.

Completed the Holly Avenue and Lake Drive road drainage and infrastructure improvements as well as the Boy Scout Island and Boat Ramp improvements. Both roads were paved and new curbing was put in place.

Paving and curbing were completed on Garden, Maple and Garfield Avenues.

Worked with the County to complete the Simpson Avenue paving alongside our School and it was ready when the students arrived in September.

Painted the Central Avenue Pavilion to keep the structure in good repair.

Repaired Well Number Two of our potable water system with no interruption to our water services.

Installed new water meters in ninety percent of our commercial and residential properties. Our water utility will be switching over to the new potable water metering and billing system on January 1st. Customers who do not have a new meter installed by the deadline will no longer receive free installation and will have additional quarterly charges for not replacing the water meter.

New soft sand was placed on Wanamaker Beach at Summit Avenue helping to maintain a jewel of a beach for our families.

The Groin (bulkhead) at the bottom of Simpson Avenue is being restored. The original groin dated back to the 1920s. This new structure will protect the Pavilion from the eastern wave action.

The Groin installed at Long Point has regrown ten feet of sand and has eased the erosion on that end of the Island.

Significant boardwalk restoration took place this year bringing our boardwalk up to a standard we can enjoy and be proud of.

New fencing was installed at Memorial Field for the tennis and basketball courts using grant funds from the State. Our Pickleball Court will be resurfaced in 2026.

More than fifteen new shade trees were planted on Borough Property including a new holiday tree at Memorial Field.

An Eagle Scout Project was completed at our Library with the installation of a bike rack, our thanks to Roman Fumo.

Engineering is in process for the restoration and paving of Chestnut, Park and Westray Avenues in the spring. In 2026 we will be working to restore and pave Cedar and Laurel Avenues and Ensor Place. Next up will be Oak Avenue and the last section of Maple Avenue by the River.

Drainage improvements are being studied for the corner of Lake Avenue and Siddons Court.

New flooring was installed at our Post Office. Emergency HVAC repairs were complete during the summer and the project will be completed in the spring of 2026.

Police Department:

Under the Leadership of Lt. Rutledge and Sgt. Caruso our Police Department has:

Received renewal of their Accreditation from the NJ Chiefs of Police. This is a notable achievement and one highly unusual for a town our size. Accreditation is process which assures our officers are well trained on proper police procedures. Really, I think about it as they are doing their job and this ensures that they do it right!

Hired new Full Time Officer Sergio DePinto.

Appointed Officer Dominique D'Amico-Violante to the position of Detective.

Responded to 7,990 calls for service.

Issued 780 summons year to date.

Detective D'Amico-Violante and Officer DePinto received recognition for subduing a dangerous individual armed with a knife.

Officer Zappola scored 1st place in the Iron Sight Rifle Division at the Ocean County Chiefs of Police Pistol Match.

Specialized training for our Officers included the Alcotest System, defensive tactics and rifle instructor certification.

Fire Company:

Our all Volunteer Fire Company gave us another tremendous year of service with a one hundred percent response rate. Our volunteers participate in numerous community activities throughout the year while raising the funds necessary to operate at a high level.

The Company and the Borough worked together last year to fund and order a new fire truck that we hope to see it delivered in the next twenty four months.

### First Aid Squad:

We sat with our First Aid Squad over two years ago to establish a strategy for them to grow and successfully serve the Borough. We have limited EMS mutual aid options to provide critical services to our residents with the anticipation of county wide EMS system.

The property which was deeded to our Squad in 1974 was sold and they reinvested the funds in a new lease and construction of an upgraded facility with resting and shower facilities and a social area with a television for watching sports or playing video games with the strategy of getting younger members to serve and answer our calls.

After being publicly available for sale for over six months in 2023/24 the squad received offers and sold at the end of 2024, moving into their new facility this year.

From their new Headquarters, our Squad has responded to dozens of calls for service from our residents this year. They are one of only a few all volunteer First Aid Squads still operating in Ocean County. No resident is ever billed for their services.

If you want to volunteer, please contact them. We all need you to help them!

### Environmental Committee:

Our Environmental Committee achieved Bronze Recertification this year from Sustainable Jersey while they focused on several nice projects in our community including the maintenance of the bioswale at the Wanamaker Complex and Earth Day educational activities and a sapling tree giveaway.

Another wooded property was added to the County Open Space Preservation Trust. The property across from police station which was a favorite of town children will now stand the test of time as green space.

### Property Taxes:

We try to manage projects with grants and we have been working hard to find them. During my time as Mayor, we have received over seven million dollars in grants including County, State and Federal funding. A terrific track record to supplement our municipal tax dollars.

Foreclosures were completed on several delinquent properties in the Borough. The property owners had not paid taxes on these properties in some cases back to the 1980s!

Our fiscal discipline has maintained a modest increase in our municipal tax rate. Since 2018 just 2.3 cents increase which is among lowest in the County at the municipal level. Since 2018, the accumulated inflation rate has been twenty nine percent. We have managed your tax dollars on less than a five percent increase!

## Administration

Our Borough Clerk (Sean Asay) and Deputy Clerk (Penny Hagan) work with a dedicated staff to perform a myriad of tasks for our Residents and the Governing Body.

Accomplishments of note this year:

Completed the automation of our code enforcement, construction and zoning permitting and tracking so that all permits and open violations are recorded and tracked in the SDL system.

Provided our construction and zoning customers with a list of frequently asked questions and upgraded our construction public portal to allow customers to request inspections and perform detailed searches on Borough properties.

Updated our website "forms" page so that customers can find and fill out commonly used Borough Forms and email them to the Office.

Upgraded our television channel and website systems, our television channel now appears on comcast cable, Verizon Fios television and can be streamed from anywhere via the link on our website.

Completed a financial rating review that resulted in our credit rating being increased by the rating agencies (a rare event indeed).

## Year End Message

The projects I have listed for all areas of the Borough are the big things we do each year beyond the normal day to day of collecting taxes, answering calls and helping residents with everything from A-Z. From picking up an old sofa to answering an emergency police call. From helping with a water issue to responding to a vehicle accident.

Our employees work hard in each of our departments and lead great teams that care about the residents. You can see that in their smiles when they greet you!

Our committees and volunteers including recreation, planning board and environmental give of their time to make a difference every day.

Our volunteer first responders fire, first aid and emergency management are people we should be grateful for every day.

Our Borough Council works hard, with Rolf Weber Council President, Brian Gabriel, Lynn Pendleton, Bob Baxter, Alan Fumo and Sandi Healy. A great team that truly cares about our town.

I am concluding seven years as your Mayor. Thank you for your confidence and support. I look forward to a great 2026 and the Celebration of the 250th Birthday of the United States of America!

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Mr. Gabriel  
Second: Ms. Pendleton

Voice Vote:                      Yes: Unanimous                      No:

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sean Asay  
Borough Clerk**