

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m. the Mayor called the meeting to order and the Township Clerk stated adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting the same on the bulletin board of Town Hall and forwarding a copy to the Courier News and Star Ledger at least forty-eight hours prior to this meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was contained on a list of meetings set by resolution dated January 4, 2022.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present:

Gentiana Brahimaj
Manuel Couto
Paul Donnelly
John Foster
Jeanne Kingsley
Jeff Varnerin
Angie D. Devanney, Mayor

Also present were:

Township Attorney: Alex Fisher
Township Administrator: Liza Viana
Township Clerk: Ana Minkoff

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Devanney asked everyone present to stand for the Flag Salute.

Mayor Devanney asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Ukrainian soldiers that have lost their lives and those that are fighting for their freedom. A moment of silence was observed.

CONFERENCE SESSION

West Side Drainage Study Project

Mr. Solfaro, Township Engineer, presented an update on the West Side Drainage Study Project. Mayor and Council provided feedback and asked questions. A discussion followed.

Mayor Devanney opened the discussion on this topic to the public. Mayor Devanney read a statement regarding the procedures for public comment given the virtual (ZOOM) meeting.

Mr. Fuhrmann of 59 Orchard Lane asked about the funding for the project. He urged Council to include the necessary funding in the budget. He also spoke about the timing and raised issue with the timing due to the emergent need. Mayor Devanney responded and a discussion followed.

Mr. Leister, of the Environmental Commission, noted that the state may be a resource on stormwater utilities.

5G Ordinance – FSD Communication

Mr. Watkins, of FSD Communications, presented on 5G technology and a proposed ordinance. Mayor and Council provided feedback and asked questions. A discussion followed.

HEARING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Opening of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj
Seconder: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mr. Leister explained the Sustainable Jersey Resolution on tonight's Agenda.

Closing of the Hearing on Agenda Items Only

Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj
Seconder: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution approving Bill List dated March 1, 2022, in the amount of \$307,558.83.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Couto
Seconder: Mrs. Kingsley
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

2. Resolution authorizing the submission of the Sustainable Jersey Grant application.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Donnelly
Seconder: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

3. Resolution amending the 2022 Temporary Appropriations.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mr. Foster

**Township Council Minutes
Council Meeting – March 1, 2022**

Secunder: Mr. Couto
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

4. Resolution authorizing the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund grant, administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust in the amount of \$60,000 for the Littel-Lord farmstead.

Approval of Resolution

Mover: Mrs. Kingsley
Secunder: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmembers provided Council Reports and Committee updates.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Devanney provided the Mayor's Report.
Ms. Viana provided the Administrator's Report

Approval of Township Council and Administration Reports

Mover: Mr. Varnerin
Secunder: Mrs. Kingsley
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Result: Approved

CITIZENS HEARING

Opening of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj
Secunder: Mr. Varnerin
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ms. Illis of 102 Twin Falls Road spoke in support of continuing remote access to and participation in the public meetings once they are back in person.

Mr. Medeiros of 21 Twin Falls Road referenced a Tree Ordinance being worked on by the Environmental Commission and asked for an update on its status. Mr. Couto responded.

**Township Council Minutes
Council Meeting – March 1, 2022**

Mr. Kane of 46 Sycamore Avenue expressed his support for the 5G Ordinance and his appreciation for the presentation. Mayor Devanney responded.

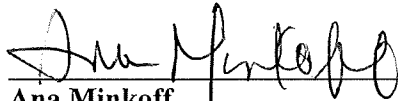
Closing of the Citizens Hearing

Mover: Mrs. Brahimaj
Seconder: Mr. Foster
Ayes: Mrs. Brahimaj, Mr. Couto, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Varnerin
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Couto to adjourn and all were in favor.
(8:55 p.m.)

Approved: April 19, 2022



Ana Minkoff
Township Clerk



March 1, 2022 Town Council Reports

Council President Jeanne Kingsley

Planning Board:

The meeting for March 2nd has been cancelled. The next meeting is on March 16th. Members of the PB received a draft copy of the Master Plan on February 17th and have until Friday March 4th to provide comments to the township planner. After reviewing the comments and making any necessary revisions the Master Plan will be posted to the township website for public review. The Planning board will subsequently hold a public hearing to review the master plan before final adoption.

Downtown Beautification Committee:

The committee has been working on a draft outdoor dining ordinance and we anticipate having the draft ordinance on the March 15th agenda for a conference session discussion to be led by the township planner. We worked with the DPW to update the banner, flag and wreath pole location map and the experience BH banners are being put up this week.

Communication Committee:

The committee has completed the website feedback survey on surveymonkey so please be on the lookout for information and the link to take the survey and give us the much-needed feedback on how to improve our township website.

Council Vice President Manny Couto

No official committee report.

Councilwoman Gentiana Brahimaj

No official committee report.

Councilman Paul Donnelly

Grants Committee:

The grants committee met a couple of weeks back, but I was unfortunately unable to attend, however, I do have some minor updates.

- We are applying for at least 2, and maybe a 3rd grant through the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), one for EV (electric vehicle) charging stations and the other for an electric garbage truck, to be used by the DPW
- We are also looking at State Grants for stormwater and stream or waterway cleanups
- There are also 2 additional historic preservation grants for the Little-Lord property, if we are able to raise funds matching the amount of the grant
- I believe the recreation commission is applying for the AARP grant for an outdoor pavilion at Memorial Field
- Lastly, we are applying for several state and county transportation and municipal aid grants for road paving and other drainage projects

Councilman John Foster

Historic Preservation Committee

The next meeting is March 3rd at 7:30pm.

Councilman Jeff Varnerin

Board of Health:

Next Board of Health Meeting is March 16th at 7:30pm.

Truth, Community Healing & Inclusion Committee:

TCHI met last night and I will defer to the mayor for an update.

Warren Development:

I attended the Warren Twp planning board meeting last night along with Manny and Jeanne for additional testimony from K. Hovnanian regarding their proposed development on Emerson Lane. Engineering, Traffic and Planner were the main topics. Architecture and Landscape testimony will occur on March 14th at 7:30pm. Key topics discussed were;

- a. A nature trail has been added to the design that runs the southern side of the property.
- b. The adequacy of parking for guests and property owners which will place limits on the number of vehicles that an owner can park on site.

- c. Roadway assessment will be done for Hillcrest Rd and Emerson Lane (in warren) before construction to document the state of the roadway in order to determine impact from bring in truckloads of fill.
- d. The extent of Belgian block curbing along Emerson Lane.
- e. A planned traffic light at Emerson and Hillcrest Rd (likely not installed until the development hits 50-75 CO's of a total 192)
- f. Approaches to reduce roadway noise from Rt 78.
- g. The set aside is 25% (3 market units for every 1 low income) with 50-year deed restrictions (usually 30 year).
- h. Three variances related to infringement on perimeter setbacks

