

Mayor Deborah Buzby- Cope called the regular meeting of the Township Commission to order on January 9th, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act were complied with, as notice was published to the *Beacon* and *Atlantic City Press* stating the time, date, and place of the meeting.

The following Commissioners were in attendance: Commissioner Nicholas Capriglione, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon and Mayor Deborah Buzy-Cope.

Mayor Cope led the Flag Salute and requested a moment of silence for Greg Cramer.

Mayor Cope read the Open Public Meetings Act, and Roll Call was taken.

Mayor Cope _____ Deputy Mayor Bourguignon _____ Commissioner Capriglione _____

The Minutes of December 5th 2022, were introduced by Mayor Cope. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon moved Commissioner Capriglione second the minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40a: 4-45-14) Introduced upon first reading by title only at a meeting of the Bass River Board of Commissioners held on January 9th, 2023. Second reading, Public Hearing and final adoption are scheduled for the regular meeting of the Bass River Board of Commissioners to be held February 6th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. which time all interested persons will have an opportunity to be heard. Copies of Ordinances 2023-01 are available at no charge by contacting the Municipal Clerk’s Office at 609 294-3337. Summary: Ordinance 2023-01 Authorizes the Township of Bass River to exceed the Municipal Budget appropriation by 1%=\$11,309.80.

Moved by Mayor Cope Commissioner Capriglione second All in favor

Ordinance #2 of 2023:

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Title 17, Zoning, of the Code of the Township of Bass River in response to the completion of the Master Plan reexamination.

Ordinance#2 was introduced by Title only because Solicitor O’Connor did not want anyone to have to wait until next month’s meeting, also introducing by Title only at January’s Meeting, new revisions will be ready for the February 6th Meeting, and we won’t have to wait until March to have a public hearing on it. The highlighted version is posted on the Town web site, by next meeting the newly revised Ordinance will also be posted on the Bass River Township web site.

Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor

RESOLUTIONS: # 1-4 of 2023 were moved and voted on together

RESOLUTION #2023-01 ESTABLISHING HOLIDAY DATES AND PAY PROCEDURES
RESOLUTION #2023-02: ESTABLISHING COMMISSIONERS MEETING DATES

RESOLUTION #2023-03: **ESTABLISHING PLANNING BOARD MEETING DATES**
RESOLUTION #2023-04: **DESIGNATING BEACON and PRESS OFFICIAL**

Moved by Deputy Bourguignon Second by Commissioner Capriglione All were in favor

RESOLUTIONS # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 2023, were moved and voted on together

RESOLUTION #2023-05: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP BOND COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #2023-06: APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD SOLICITOR
RESOLUTION #2023-07: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR
RESOLUTION #2023-08: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP AUDITOR
RESOLUTION #2023-09: ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNTS
RESOLUTION #2023-10: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP ANIMAL CONTROL

RESOLUTION #2023-12: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP PROSECUTOR
RESOLUTION #2023-13: APPOINTING TOWNSHIP CODE ENFORCEMENT
RESOLUTION #2023-14: APPOINTING CONFLICT PROSECUTOR, PUBLIC DEFENDER,
and PUBLIC CONFLICT DEFENDER

Moved by Mayor Cope Second Commissioner Capriglione All voted in favor

RESOLUTION: #15 ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAXES AND CHARGES

Moved by Mayor Cope Second Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor

RESOLUTION# 16, 17 were moved and voted on together

RESOLUTION #2023-16: CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
RESOLUTION #2023-17: SELF EXAMINATION of 2023 BUDGET

Mayor Cope moved Commissioner Capriglione second all voted in favor

RESOLUTIONS# 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, were moved and voted on together

RESOLUTION #2023-18: APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER and ALTERNATE
RESOLUTION #2023-19: APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
RESOLUTION #2023-20: APPOINTING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER
RESOLUTION #2023-21: ENTER COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY
RESOLUTION#2023-23: APPOINTING SAFETY COORDINATOR
RESOLUTION #2023-25: APPOINTING DEPUTY ZONING OFFICER

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon Second Commissioner Capriglione
All voted in favor

RESOLUTION #2023-24: SETTING OFFICERS and EMPLOYEES SALARY AND PAY

Commissioner Capriglione, Abstained for himself and Mari Ann Capriglione, Deputy Mayor Bourguignon and Mayor Cope both abstained for themselves. The Resolution was moved by the majority of the Commission

RESOLUTION #2023-26: COURT SHARING AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
Moved by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon Second Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor

RESOLUTION #2023-11: AUTHORIZING AWARD of MUNICIPAL ENGINEER
RESOLUTION #2023-28: AUTHORIZING AWARD of SPECIAL PROJECT / CONFLICT
RESOLUTION #2023-29: APPOINTING ZONING OFFICER

It was decided by Mayor and Commissioners that CME will be finishing projects they started and that Owen/Little and Associates will take over Zoning and day to day projects.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon, second by Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor

RESOLUTION #2023-30: AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF LOCAL RECREATION GRANT.

This is for a Grant which was brought to Bass River's attention by CME. It is the feeling of the Commissioners that since CME brought it to the Townships attention the Commission felt they should authorize CME to apply for the Recreational Grant. Solicitor O'Connor advised the Commissioners that the Resolution would have to be revised to give CME permission to apply.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bourguignon. Second by Commissioner Capriglione All voted in favor.

RESOLUTION #2023-31: APPROVING GREEN GROUP GOLD NJ, LLC for a CLASS
2 CANNABIS MANUFACTURING MICROBUSINESS LICENSE

Solicitor O'Connor explained that the owner is a majority owner in both the Green Group Grows and Green Group Gold Resolution is revising the name of the LLC. Bass River Township has already approved the license however in order to become approved from the State our Resolution has to match the actual name.

REPORTS:

Solicitor O'Connor has been trying to contact Atlantic Electric to settle a damage claim we've had with them since March of 2020. She finally was able to get a contact number she will also send Mari Ann and hopefully between them, they can reach someone soon. While working in Bass River they damaged roads, trees and vegetation. Commissioner Capriglione suggested

that since the damage is in the Village part of Bass River Township and it is under the protected area of the Pinelands Commission, we contact Pinelands and fill them in on what has been going on. Deputy Mayor Bourguignon also added that he knows other Towns that allowed Atlantic Electric to work in their towns gave grants to the effected towns to cover the damage they caused. He would like to look into that further.

Solicitor O'Connor spoke to the pros and cons of having a rent control or a rent leveling board in Bass River Township. She explained that at this time we are in a holding pattern because a group of tenants from Buttonwood went to Superior Court and received a stay from the Judge to keep their rent from being raised over the next six years. Ms. O'Connor will continue to see what can be done to help the residents of Buttonwood.

RESOULTION # 27 Of 2023 Payment of Claims the amount that was paid was \$634,817.16
Moved by Mayor Cope Second by Commissioner Capriglione all voted in favor.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT:

SAFETY CORRIDNATORS REPORT: Deputy Mayor Bourguignon stated that the State Environmental Officer visited the Dump and found the township to be in violation of having broken asphalt and bricks in the dump. The asphalt and bricks were a result of moving the Convenience Center road over. We were also cited for residents dumping deer carcasses at the dump. The Township has thirty days to clean the dump up or we will be fined \$4,500.

Open Public Session began at 8:15pm

Public Session was opened for the approval of discussion and a vote for the CBDG Grant which was a grant offered through Burlington County the Commissioners voted to apply

Deputy Mayor Bourguignon opened, Commissioner Capriglione second

All voted in favor

Comments: A question was raised by the Commissioners if the Engineers were aware of what each firm was responsible for. Mayor Cope explained the CME is now responsible to finish old projects and that Owen/Little is now responsible for the new ones.

Jamie, was next to speak about Buttonwood. She claims that as one of the tenants that took that the owner. To Superior Court she has been made to suffer retaliation and harassment unjustly. She has reached out to the DEP to complain, and various other State Agency's as well,

but no one will help her. She is not allowed to use the dumpster or she will be evicted and claims, the owner of Buttonwood is bringing his shady business practices to New Gretna. Solicitor O'Connor explained that the Township is not giving up they are still trying to find a way to help her and the other tenants.

Bass River Elementary School was another topic discussed in the Public portion. The Commissioners are concerned that the longer the closing of the school takes the more it will cost our Tax Payers. As of now there is no solution to the closing of the school.

