

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Mayor Rick Adams called the regular meeting of the Township of Bass River Commission to order on February 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

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

The following Commission Members were in attendance: Commissioner Jane Allen, Deputy Mayor Louis Bourguignon and Mayor Rick Adams..

Mayor Adams led the salute to the flag.

Mayor Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that the minutes of the meetings of January 13, 2025 be approved. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mrs. Allen read the Court Report for January 2025 a copy of which is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office for public inspection.

ORDINANCE #1 OF 2025

CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that the meeting be opened for public comment on Ordinance #1 of 2025. It was so moved.

There being no questions or comments Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that the public comment be closed. It was so moved.

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that Ordinance #1 of 2025 be approved on second and final reading. It was so moved by the following vote: Yes – Allen, Bourguignon, Adams; No – none; Absent – none; Abstain – none.

ORDINANCE #2 OF 2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 6.08, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED “ANIMALS” ADDING CHAPTER 6.08.270 ENTITLED “TETHERING DOGS”

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mrs. Allen that Ordinance #2 of 2025 be approved as first reading and scheduling second reading for March 10, 2025. It was so moved by

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the following vote: Yes – Allen, Bourguignon, Adams; No – none; Absent – none; Abstain – none.

RESOLUTION #28-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #28-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #29-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TURNOVER OF UNCASHED COURT FUNDS

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #29-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #30-25

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND SUPPORTING THE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #30-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mrs. Allen informed the public that the sewer system located at Off-Shore Manor is beginning to cost the entire town a significant amount of money and the commissioners have to really consider the cost to the residents of Off-Shore Manor's annual sewer rate going from \$150.00 annually to \$500.00 annually, the cost has not be adjusted for many years. The town is looking to do an ordinance to increase the cost at the next meeting.

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RESOLUTION #31-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, SUPPORTING THE MAYOR'S WELLNESS
CAMPAIGN**

Mayor Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #31-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #32-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC
MEETING ACT**

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #32-25, discussing pending/anticipated litigation, be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Mayor Adams announced that Burlington County Landfill will be charging \$13.50 per mattress in addition to the bulk rate already being charged, so the township may have to begin charging to accept mattresses at the dump. It is in discussion stages right now, but would like some feedback from the residents.

Township Solicitor stated she was contacted by the United States Fish and Wildlife with regards to some property that the township is listing for sale, she is researching the request further and will give an update once she has more information.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the meeting be opened to the public portion of the meeting. It was so moved.

Ashley Cramer, Adams Ave, stated there was a meeting at the New Gretna Fire House to discuss that the Commissioners were cutting the funds for the fire department this year and is not allowing the use of the Chief's vehicle, she asked why is the town cutting the funds and presented a petition of many resident signatures supporting the fire department and not cutting any funds from them.

Mrs. Allen stated the Commissioners were not cutting the budget for the fire department, it is just a shift in funding. She explained that the average amount spent by the department for the last three years has been about \$27,000. The budget line item was \$50,000. in previous years, but we now have to pay for a fire truck so we are putting a line

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item of \$30,000 in the budget and then another \$80,000 for the payment of the fire truck, so really the amount for the department has increased not been cut. She stated the department has the full support of the Commissioners and will not let the department fail.

Mayor Adams also stated that it was announced that if funds were cut then doors to the department will be closed and he assured the town that will not happen. The fire department will also have people who are willing to serve and protect this town. No one should worry about that.

A lengthy discussion ensued between various residents of the town, Fire Chief Pat Monahan, Tom Wetmore, and the Borough Solicitor with regards to coverage of the Chief's truck and documents that were requested by the Mayor, it ended with the Fire Chief agreeing to have a meeting with the Mayor and Solicitor.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the public portion be closed. It was so moved.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mr. Adams that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**JENNY GLEGHORN, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Approved:

**WILLIAM "RICK" ADAMS
MAYOR**