

MARCH 10, 2025

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

Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act were complied with as notice was published to 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.

Mr. Bourguignon moved, second by Mrs. Allen that the minutes of the meetings of February 10, 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 #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"

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that the meeting be opened for public comment on Ordinance #2 of 2025. It was so moved.

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

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that Ordinance #2 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 #03-2025

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "AMENDING CHAPTER 13.04.022 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER AS THE SAME RELATES TO SEWER MAINTENANCE FEES"

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that Ordinance #3 of 2025 be approved on first reading and schedule second reading for April 14, 2025 . It was so moved by the

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

RESOLUTION #33-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS
RIVER, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE READING OF
THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY**

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Adams that Resolution #33-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mrs. Allen that Resolution #34-25, introduction to the 2025 Municipal Budget be approved on first reading and schedule second reading for April 14, 2025. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

RESOLUTION #35-25

**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 #35-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #36-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP
SOLICITOR TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO
THE TOWNSHIP IN RELATION TO A COMPLAINT
FILED AGAINST THE TOWNSHIP**

Mr. Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #36-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

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RESOLUTION #37-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE
DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR A BASS RIVER
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION BY THE TOWNSHIP
OF BASS RIVER**

Mrs. Allen moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #37-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #38-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, AWARDED BID FOR LICENSED
OPERATIONS OF THE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT AND SEWER COLLECTION
SYSTEM**

Mayor Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #38-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #39-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT
FOR BULK TRASH DISPOSAL**

Mayor Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #39-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

RESOLUTION #40-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR YARD SALES**

Mayor Adams moved, second by Mr. Bourguignon that Resolution #40-25 be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Township Solicitor informed the Commissioners they are moving forward with In-Rem Foreclosure #8 and #9 but it will be combined as one unit; she also received a request

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from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purchase of a property the Township is selling, once she completes some research the township will work with the department to finalize the sale.

Township Deputy Clerk explained the township is working to avoid charges for mattresses to be disposed of since the increase from the County has occurred and she announced the Department of Motor Vehicle will be in Bass River on May 23, 2025 for the residents to obtain their Real ID through the State of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION #41-25

**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 #41-25, discussing pending/anticipated litigation, be approved as read. It was so moved by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

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

John Gormley, 12 Riverside Drive addressed some concerns he has with regards to the Fire Company and feels the annual budget should be cut, but if it had to happen an open communication dialogue between the Mayor and the Fire Chief should have occurred. A lengthy discussion ensued with regards to the details of his concerns on the New Gretna Fire Company.

Leo Assur 106 North Maple Avenue stated he doesn't think it's a big deal to allow the Fire Chief to have the Chief truck at his home because seconds do count in an emergency, he asked what a dedication by rider is for the historic preservation and what is the litigation the attorney is appointed to this evening.

The clerk explained the town is trying to get a Historic Preservation Committee going and work on projects for preservation, so this will allow the town/committee to collect donations that can only be used towards the Preservation of the History of Bass River. The Solicitor explained the litigation is from Mathis Construction and there is not much more we can state.

Deb Buzby Cope, 161 Leaktown Drive, wanted to clarify that when she was Mayor of the town the JIF allowed for the use of the Fire Chief Truck for anything pertaining to requirements/job description of a fire company. The truck was allowed to go home with

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the Chief, but was not to be used for personal use as that was not covered under the JIF. She understand insurance rules change very frequently but during her tenure as Mayor that was allowed. As for the donation to the fire company the town felt it to be necessary to increase the annual budget because of COVID and donations were low. She went on to explain some other reasons for the increase in the budget clarify any misinformation that was out there.

The following individuals spoke on behalf of the Off-Shore Manor and the increase to the annual sewer rates:

Robert Hurale

Matt Bennigaso – who also though the cell tower lease was supposed to offset any costs for the wastewater treatment facility

Kevin Groff

The governing body listened to the concerns and stated the ordinance will be open to the public for comments on April 14, 2025, but the increase is needed.

Sally Bourguignon asked if the township still has an emergency medical service agreement with Galloway Township. She was informed yes.

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 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**JENNY GLEGHORN, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Approved:

**WILLIAM "RICK" ADAMS
MAYOR**

