

**BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2016, 7:00 PM**

Mayor Jeffrey Silver called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Island Heights is hereby called to order. Notice of this meeting is in accordance with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT P.L. 1975 Chapter 231 (Section 10:4-10). Notice of the Meeting appeared in the Asbury Park Press on December 5, 2015, and is posted on the bulletin board, and in the municipal building.

Mayor Silver led the Pledge to the flag, followed by Roll Call:

	Asay	Bendel	Berglund	Pillion	Snow	Thompson	Mayor Silver	Atty O'Connell
Present	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Absent						x		x

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: none

ORDINANCES: none

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2016-28 Approving the January Bill List

Public Comment

Councilman Pillion asked for clarification on the Bill List being shorter than usual, and if this was the entire Bill List.

Mayor Silver and Municipal Clerk stated that this is the full Bill List for this meeting.

Councilman Pillion stated there were two line items on the Bill List; one being the Island Heights Board of Education payment, and other for debt service payments to service the bond for the water-tower and treatment plant.

A resident, John Columbus, 38 Highland Avenue, asked if the stated amount for the Board of Education Members is for their salaries.

The Mayor stated this is for the costs of operations and not the salary for the Board Members.

Councilwoman Snow stated that the Board Members of the Board of Education do not get paid.

Roll Call

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
	x	Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-29
 Public Comment
 Roll Call

Appointing Governing Body Liaisons

Councilwoman Snow asked for amendments to the Liaison list to reflect her being added to the Recreation and Environmental Committee in place of Councilman Berglund and Councilman Bendel, respectively.

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
		Berglund	x			
	x	Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-30 Authorizing Signatures on checks (wendy prior)

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
		Berglund	x			
	x	Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-31 Authorizing Antonides, Jr to complete the Annual Financial Statement of the Borough of Island Heights

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
		Berglund	x			
	x	Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-32 Authorizing a Special Event Application for Toms River Kiwanis on May 7,

2016

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
	x	Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-33 Extending the deadline for Animal Licensing to February 29th

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
	x	Bendel	x			
		Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-34 Authorizing the Submission of a Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
		Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
	x	Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-35 Authorizing Maser Consulting to complete a Federal Grant Management Plan

Public Comment

Borough Engineer stated it is necessary and part of process to apply for the Safe Streets to School Grant. The Municipal Clerk stated this document is also so that the Borough can receive federal grants in the future.

Councilwoman Snow stated that Island Heights is unique to that there is no school busing; every student walks or is dropped off. Nowhere along Lake Ave is a sidewalk; children have to walk in the streets.

Councilman Berglund: There will also be a sidewalk to crossover to the library; especially those coming from the crest of the hill so they can have access and use the crosswalk properly.

Councilwoman Snow: Island heights is unique and does not have a library on-site. There are no crossing guards.

John Columbus, 38 Highland Avenue: stated there is speeding going on in town and mentioned in other towns, there are flashing speed deterrents.

Councilman Berglund: There are two flashers in the ground; one that is on the school side. The other set at the crossing indicates there is crossing ahead. There are other available signs that have led lights, but the question is whether the grant provides enough funding.

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
	x	Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

Resolution 2016-36 Authorizing Maser Consulting to prepare plans and bid job for 2014 Community Development Block Grant

Public Comment

Borough Engineer, Chris Theodos: This is a grant for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant. The original grant was about \$38,000 and there may be some additional money left; in speaking with the County. There may be money carried over from a prior grant that wasn't expended. We can use them for handicap reconstruction on Central Ave, Jaynes Ave, and sidewalk installation on Simpson Ave; also reconstruction of a handicap ramp at the municipal court. We are really behind the eightball on getting this done since it is from 2014, and we should be eligible for another round of funding this year, so it's important that we move forward with this so that it doesn't jeopardize more funds.

Councilman Berglund: The locations you identified is where the construction has already taken place. Is that correct? They were all done last year.

Chris Theodos: To my understanding, some of the work had not been completed yet.

The additional sidewalk to Simpson, it was a grant, installed in the safe routes to school and was installed with the sidewalk on Simpson; the sidewalk that is next to the methodist church. From there along the parking lot, going towards summit, that was the sidewalk that was in the ground, and handicap ramps were installed at that time.

Borough Engineer, Chris Theodos: From my understanding, the meeting we had today, that had not been done.

Councilman Berglund: The meeting we had today was on engineering that had to be done on new grants; I understood.

Borough Engineer, Chris Theodos: Okay, that is my misunderstanding, but I believe there were funds that were not expended.

Councilman Berglund: Okay, we will look at the grants after the meeting. The overall amount may not have been expended.

Borough Engineer, Chris Theodos: I spoke with the County, and nothing has been submitted for payment.

Councilman Berglund: there may be additional funds that the Town can use with that money. There is a citizen volunteering playground equipment, and the block grant can be used to put the rubber cushioning in the ground.

Councilman Pillion: Is there some reason why 2014 hasn't been closed out? Is that unusual?

Councilman Berglund: It should've taken place and sounds like it's an administrative oversight. Invoices have obviously been paid and we haven't gotten reimbursement.

Roll Call

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
x		Asay	x			
		Bendel	x			
	x	Berglund	x			
		Pillion	x			
		Snow	x			
		Thompson				x
		Mayor Silver	x			

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Baxter, 34 Highland Avenue: Expressed concern and displeasure with the new recycling schedule. This change does not encourage recycling. In addition to that the residents were not informed well enough about the change in schedule. She further requested that the Council reconsider changing the recycling schedule back to one pickup per week instead of every other week.

Councilwoman Snow: Several years ago, Toms River changed into single stream, which makes it easier. Whether we pick up every week or every other week; it doesn't matter. We will also be reinstated when it comes to the summer months when we have a greater influx of summer people. I believe it's going to work, and if we see that it doesn't work, then we will reconsider going to every week. I've been volunteering for Ocean County Solid Waste for the past fifteen years so I'm very familiar with recycling. I brought single stream into our town, and I would ask that you just see if this will work.

Councilman Pillion: Stated that the Council didn't have a vote on this and essentially it is the Mayor directing the Environmental Liaison and employees to change the schedule.

Mayor Silver: as you were saying environmental reasons, the Public Works also drives a diesel truck throughout the town, and we are reducing emissions by half by also changing the schedule to every other week. This is a pilot program and I want to see how this works out.

Ellen Columbus, 38 Highland Ave: Expressed support for Ms. Linda Baxter on the change in recycling schedule, and asked if the Borough would consider robocans.

Councilwoman Snow: I would suggest a robocall.

Mayor Silver: These are cost savings. We don't have any other revenue and this is a way to offset costs. I need more ratables in town. We have some high-end houses coming in town, and these are the conveniences you speak of. The county raised our taxes \$88,000 and I want to make sure we are not continually burdened.

John Columbus, 38 Highland Avenue: trash takes up less space than recycling and requested to change the pickup. He stated the summer people get what we don't get. He wants summer people to pay more in taxes. We shouldn't have to go between our legs to ask what is going on and volunteered to make a bulletin board at the Post Office.

Kempton, 76 River Avenue: If it was that bad, this place would be full tonight. At some point, you have to be responsible for yourself; come and find out.

Maureen DeSantos Scott, 15 Fletcher Place: The Board of Ed had the reorganization meeting, and informed the Council that she is the School Board Community Liaison Chair.

Councilman Pillion stated the County Clerk has been very helpful and mentioned school dates and the Special Election online, in addition to inserts sent out. The referendum is \$2.9 million, and \$1.169 million is proposed to be for the town's portion.

Bob McNeil, 237 Ocean Avenue: Why is it only being publicized now; two months before the referendum? What has the school done to publicize it? Asked for clarification on a Joint Insurance Fund bill and why we pay it? Feels concern on paying insurance to the Fire Department which is a private organization.

Mayor Silver: annually we given them \$20,000 and this past year, we cut it back 5% ; same with the First Aid (5%).

Councilman Pillion: This insurance is the last resort for this entity. I assume this is the issue. If the Fire Company tried to purchase insurance by themselves, they may have to to a Lloyds of London type. They are looked at as quasi-municipal entity, and the insurance is more affordable. The Fire Department gets \$20,000 and the JIF , and LOSAP, which is about \$20,000. The amount coming from the town is about less than \$50,000, and about \$30 a house. We have to appoint a fire company. If you live in Gilford Park, that is a Fire District and they pay about \$170 in a Fire District Tax. They raise money by renting out their parking lot, which is ending soon. Everyone is facing aging infrastructure and rising costs. they try to keep down the costs they incur.

John Columbus, 38 Highland Avenue: does the first aid squad provide ambulance service?

Lt. Arnold: If you call 911 for medical, the police respond and determine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BENDEL: He stressed that there should be a motion and second before there is discussion. I have no other reports.

BERGLUND: I hope everyone looked at the insert which had the mayor's letter, and on the backside was the notice of the community garden. We haven't seen anyone who placed money down yet, but the deadline is the second council meeting in February. The Cultural Heritage Society is overseeing it and it is not a taxpayer supported function. There is a funding that came to our attention by the NJ Dept of Transportation, which is the quasi source of the funds, but some entities that were awarded Safe Routes to School, haven't gotten started on them because there are so many costs associated with that; not the least is design engineering. NJDOT went out and qualified firms and will reimburse 100% for the engineering. We were the only grant in Ocean County that was awarded. Central Avenue by Dillions Creek, the hole has been filled but the plate underneath is still broke. We had a \$30,000 not to exceed and quoted received were higher than that. We are looking into this further. The Department of Public Works, we proposed a way of splitting off so Public Works can pickup a part of that, so we can maybe install them ourselves. We had a transition meeting with engineering firms and went over punchlists. Jaynes Avenue, the award of the paving was given to Earle, and a pre-construction meeting to decide on whether we are going to upgrade underground piping. Water Treatment plant needs an operations manual, and closeout. Maser is picking up all the work on the River avenue grant. Maple Avenue is awarded by NJDOT for 2016, and that is the next street. The Block grants, do you want suggestions from the public? (question directed at Borough Engineer).

Borough Engineer stated yes. There will be two public hearings to solicit ideas from the public. There are limitations for the grant but all projects will be considered. Most of the types of improvements have to be associated with ADA compliance such as curbing, ramps, handicap accessible aspects. He confirmed additional cuts to the boardwalk and improvements to the pavilion if it does something to improve handicap accessible.

COUNCILMAN ASAY: The Councilman provided copies of legislation A-2229, with regards local public contracts for any asphalt paving. They also amended the law for street cleaning and requires us to get a permit from the DEP to clean the trash from Dillions Creek. Any creek that runs through county or local, requires a permit and someone has to certify what you are taking away. We are being legislated out of existence. These mandates and costs are such that we can't afford to do our basic functions. We are doing everything we can to run this town but this is madness.

PILLION: We need to get notice out proactively for alternate side parking during snowstorms. We had enforcement along Ocean Avenue and west of Central Ave. Both Councilman Bendel and I received feedback that residents weren't aware of it, and we can do a robocall to inform residents. The Police did a toy drive for eight children and months worth of food for family in need, and I thank everyone for their help. What ties into this on why it's important, is I received a call from a young mother who asked if they saw a head start school bus drive by? I called the police, spoke with Lt. Arnold, and he already knew of it. The police are very proactive with the community, in a non harsh manner, and with efforts like this, they have a pulse on the community. Not only do they do something good for people in need, they become aware of areas in need in the community. We are starting to meet more with the Fire Department to get more knowledgeable on operating costs and forthcoming costs in the years to come such as a fire truck that will be needed in 2019. Through their fundraising, they make substantial payments. The base cost is \$600,000 compared to \$300,000 several years ago. We are becoming more knowledgeable on operating and capital costs, and mandates such as radios that are becoming extinct due to FCC guidelines. The full cost of that could be up to \$150,000, and our funding source through the 966 program will be ending soon; and these burdens are a requirement in the near future. We have been able to get 966 money, but this will dry up and have to face these costs ourselves. The cost almost doubled in personal protection,

fire retardant suits with air tanks. Another 4 or 5 tanks, the size of the tanks will increase to hold more air pressure and breath time, and the old ones won't have enough pounds per square inch. Our volunteers have to face these costs; we're getting educated on the cost of fire protection services and I'll leave it at that for now.

SNOW: We have a school referendum on March 8 and questions have arose. We had three meetings in the past; to give you a background. There is a three person committee comprised of myself, Councilwoman Thompson and Councilman Berglund; the Superintendent, members of the School Board and community. This way we get the get feedback from the community. We initially met on November 18, 2015 to set out, get feedback, and set issues. We met again on December 15, and January 6; and will again on January 20. We did a school referendum for a \$4 million school improvements project, but it did not pass so they're looking at a scaled back to \$2.9 million. The State will provide 40%, and the town will be providing \$1.16 million if the referendum passes. Information will be coming out at the end of January, beginning of February. I will say that the school was very gracious. They have welcomed our input and advice. I know I sent out suggestions. The first referendum came at a very bad time. There was a lot of information that did not get out to the community, and everyone realizes how important the school is. But there's some information that will be coming out. One aspect that some don't realize is that our school is one of the top three in Ocean County; highly rated. Our students outperform on a regular basis. Another issue is what if we shutdown the school? There still would be taxes paid to the school, and we would lose control. Two flyers will be coming out. The second referendum there will be more information to make a more educated decision.

Councilman Berglund added that what he found interesting, my grandkids are older and could be in this school. What I found out is how it impacts me. Primarily, it's keeping the costs in line. We are a desirable town to live in. Any family that has children, the rating we have. And if we start comparing school taxes to others in Ocean County, they get the best school. This is the place to raise kids. We all make that choice, but if it's outside people coming in; they are looking for houses and a good school. This also makes the value of my house stay high.

Councilwoman Snow: Many people we spoke to chose this town, and will say that they don't have children; what does it matter to me? It does affect you house value, reports that realtors put out that give the ratings of the school. As one of the top three schools, we are toe-to toe with Lavallette with scores. We had full day kindergarten in 2004 before anyone else did. We have language. Another thing, it was brought up as a band aid approach; things are breaking down. The school had to be evacuated because there was a short on the fire system. These are all problems. They are taking care of the building envelope and the heat and remediate any outstanding issues. You will be receiving two flyers, with plenty of information.

Linda Baxter, 34 Highland Avenue: I wholeheartedly agree with you and a lot of people who don't have children in the school, people tend to think they don't have any skin in the game and vote against the referendum. I think the information you will give out is a very good thing.

Councilwoman Snow: We have a little gem in this town, and we sometimes don't advertise how good it is. I think there will be a lot more information to make an educated guess. No one knows what School CHOICE is. The State pays for children to pay for kids to come to the school, and the state pays more money for these students rather than tuition students.

School Board Liaison: With that money, we have art one day a week for kindergarten through fifth grade.

Councilman Bendel: First and foremost, I support the school referendum. We can not, not afford that building. We have to bite the bullet. However, long term, these are nice sentiments, and I would expect this town to have nothing less than a gem. But longterm, can we afford this? We need better answers than real estate numbers. If there are savings there, we are going to have to look at this. Again, I support the

referendum, and this has to be done.

Councilman Pillion: I ran the numbers from 1999, and we consistently have about 103 to 113 students. And perhaps going forward, there will be other ways to bring more students in and receive more money. There are other options out there, and with a new referendum, he is receptive to what the community has to say.

Mayor Silver stated that Council Member Snow, Thompson and Councilman Berglund have made great efforts to get the information.

Councilman Pillion: stated people eluded to potential students for revenue, we learned the school has the capacity for 175 students. They also mentioned we rank up there with Bayhead and Lavallette. What we also know that Seaside Park has about 40 students and they don't have their own school. They have a sending-receiving relationship. It's a one year contract between school boards, and we send them to Lavallette. It's a competitive tuition thing and being top three, we would be in the running. I spoke with Kate Frankovich, I asked her about the efforts of being competitive and attracting those students from Seaside Park. We have extra room and will get more money to come in and support the school. I stressed the need to publicize the efforts are ongoing and make people aware so that people know the cost could be brought down a little bit through a send-receive relationships. The school board is looking into this and CHOICE students.

Councilwoman Snow: The school has the duty to provide seating and capacity for students within their own district. If they are at capacity, they can not take students from another district. One of the big issues is why not shut down the school, so this is why.

Mayor Silver stated that the Crown Victoria was on an auction site. It was sold, he failed to take the vehicle and charging a storage fee. If he doesn't respond, we still receive the money and will go out to bid.

Councilman Bendel motioned to Adjourn, Seconded by Councilman Asay, and unanimous Council consent. The meeting of the Island Heights Council was adjourned at 9:02am

Municipal Clerk

Mayor Jeffrey Silver